Feedback from Nursery & Primary Education Council on 27/09/2023

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the Nursery & Primary Education Council held on Wednesday 27/09/23. We are pleased to share with you the main topics which were discussed at this meeting:

School start in September 2023

Nursery: Parents were given access to the classrooms during the 1st week of school, with the opportunity to spend a short time in class with their child/ren. On the 1st day of school, a small party was organized with M2 pupils involving singing and a choreography.
Welcoming M1 pupils over the course of the week was a good way of integrating them more easily.
During the 2nd week, parents came through gate 3 and all the teachers were present.
By the 3rd week, 4 teachers of different language sections were present at the gate.
A *Kiss & Go system* is being tested at the moment: The idea is for parents to drop off their children and leave quickly, as it's not good for children, nor for safety, if parents stand in front of the gate for too long.
APEEEL2 will follow-up on this during the next Education Council meeting.

Primary: The start of the new school year was smooth and well organized.
P1 pupils arrived at 09:30 and were greeted by P2 pupils to a nice ceremony involving a parachute show.
Parents were able to attend this ceremony.
3 lines are now organized to escort pupils going to the bus platforms at the end of the school day.
To make it easier for P1 pupils to find their way around, the different bus routes are marked with various pictures (e.g. snowman = Platform 1).
For parents driving to School, parking signs which were to be installed before the start of the school year, have still not been delivered. Please note there is no guard at the Primary building until 08.30, as all guards are on duty in the parking lots.



P2 pupils welcoming new P1 pupils on Tuesday 05/09/2023

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Class composition in Nursery & Primary School

Nursery: The School is facing **a very critical situation in both Danish and Czech sections** with very low number of pupils per class (4 pupils in the DK section and only 2 pupils in the CS section). The 2 classes work a lot together to increase pupils' interactions. Teachers also work with their colleagues in the same sections in Primary, as well as with Lux1 classes facing a similar situation.
This situation represents a risk for the future, but there are no plans to close any sections for the time being. It should be noted, however, that the European School of Munich will be submitting a proposal to the JTC (Joint Teaching Committee) to close the Dutch section in their School. Therefore, it will be interesting to see how this develops for Munich.
Regarding the Danish section, for the time being, our School has the support of the Danish inspector to keep the section open.
Regarding the other sections, we can note a slight decline in both francophone and anglophone Nursery classes. **In total, there are 196 pupils in Nursery**.

Primary: For the first time, the FR section has 4 classes in P5, whereas there are only 2 in P1. The situation is to be observed in future years for DK and CS sections, given the low numbers in Nursery school this year.
Overall, there are 50 fewer pupils than last year in the 2 cycles. **The Pimary school has 960 pupils.**

School trips

- **P3 class trip:**

The trip is confirmed and will take place in April in Houffalize (BE) for a week, or slightly less. This trip has already been made by Lux1 and the estimated cost is 600€.

- **P4 class trip:**

This trip is confirmed and will take place in June in De Haan (BE) for one week, for an estimated cost of 650€.

- **P5 class trip**:

A booking has been made for a week in Cologne (DE) in June. This is a city trip, with sightseeing and sports activities. Coordinators are also looking for a possible alternative, as this is not an ideal time for P5 pupils due to June being a busy month (P5 transition and Ceremony…).
APEEEL2 informed the School that many parents requested more information on the discontinuation of the Zinal trip. Mr. van Daal explained that it was a consensus between Lux1 and Lux2 Schools to stop the snow classes, due to the high cost and environmental concerns (fewer and fewer schools are going away on snow classes). In addition, springtime is a more favourable season for school trips as pupils are less sick.
APEEEL2 asked to be informed of developments concerning the P5 trip before the next Education Council and recalled that a proposal to organize a consultation with parents was

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made at the last Education Council. Indeed, this is a sensitive subject, as the snow class was a tradition at the School.

Homework Policy

APEEEL2 has long called for greater harmonization between language sections on homework. Therefore, we were delighted to receive the first version of the homework policy. The version presented to us had already been approved by the teachers, and covers the objectives & principles of homework, the form it can take and gives an estimate of the time pupils should spend on homework according to their cycle (P1/P2 or P3 or P4/P5).

APEEEL2 expressed its thanks for this long-awaited initiative, and made some observations on the following points:

- Lack of precision regarding the duration of homework
- How can L2 homework be integrated into the policy?
- The difficulties of doing homework on long days
- Homework for absent pupils
- …

There will be further discussions with the School Management on these points.

Pedagogical projects in Nursery

The Education Council has welcomed a new Coordinator for Nursery, Mrs Hélène Villaume, a nursery teacher in the FR section. Nursery classes will participate to different projects:

- 16/10/23 Puppets show
- 12/03/24 « 3 chardons show » a musical in FR, but very visual
- Djembé in April, May, June
- Common projects for all classes
- Individual project per class (Christmas, class party…)



Other pedagogical projects in Primary

Apart from school trips, many projects are planned throughout the school year. A calendar of pedagogical projects has been created to avoid too many projects running simultaneously.

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- **The Day of Languages** took place on 26/09 and was organized by level. P3, P4 and P5 classes organized a buffet with various specialties from all the language sections. Pupils were able to learn and use words like "please, may I have..."in different languages. The School would like to thank the parents for preparing so many delicious culinary specialties. In other grades, teachers swapped classes to introduce a new language to the students.
- **Djembé workshops** will take place in November.
- **Christmas concerts** always take place at the end of November, as the Salle des Fêtes is reserved in December for the Secondary examinations.
- **Christmas Card Competition**
- **Spring concerts**
- **Road safety project**: Some sports lessons involving bicycles have already begun with Mrs. Everad. The School is also looking at the possibility of doing the same circuit as the *Health Walk* by bike.
- **Bee Secure** will take place in January for the P4-P5 classes.
- **Class photos** will take place in November.
- **Learn to learn** sessions for P5 classes will start after the Carnival holidays.
- **The Sustainability project** with EIB experts will take place after the Carnival holidays during European Hours.
- **The Chess project** will also continue during the European Hours.
- **Matific** is a platform which works like a video game (creating your own avatar, maps, skins...) and is designed for children aged 6 to 10. It is linked to *Intermath* syllabus, and teachers can load exercises according to the class's progress in *Intermath* (different languages are available for the different sections). The School would like pupils to be able to use it in class, but the current state of our IT system doesn't allow it at this stage. Therefore, pupils can only use it at home for the moment.

APEEEL2, together with the teachers' representatives, insisted that even though only Secondary pupils will be participating in the next edition of Eurosport, Nursery and Primary classes should also be involved in a way or another, since the event will exceptionally take place at Lux2 in March 2024.

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APEEEL2 Nursery & Primary Education Council Committee – October 2023

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