

Woluw'Info

June - July 2013

News, updates and information about the Parents' Association of the Woluwé European School.

e.dito Chers parents, cette année 2012-13 arrive à sa fin. Elle aura été intense pour notre association et notre école. Nous pouvons tirer quelques conclusions de cette année et tenter des prévisions pour 2013-14.

Le bac est terminé, toutes nos félicitations aux élèves qui quittent l'école. Des parents et des élèves ont rapporté des problèmes avec l'examen de math, mais l'école n'a pas reconnu ces problèmes et tout recours devra être adressé à la Chambre des Recours. Les représentants de la section EN ont envoyé une lettre au directeur, visible sur le site web de l'Association.

Il y a aussi un autre problème de fond: le note moyenne du bac des élèves de Woluwé est systématiquement inférieure aux autres écoles européennes depuis 2001. Il faudra lutter contre cette contre-performance rapidement.

Les inscriptions pour l'année prochaine sont presque clôturées. Une politique d'inscriptions avait été établie en 2005 afin de peupler l'école de Laeken et réduire la surpopulation dans les autres écoles. Les données finales ne sont pas disponibles mais on s'oriente vers un nombre d'élèves comparable aux années précédentes. Donc, l'école de Laeken se remplit comme prévu, voire plus, au point qu'elle sera également saturée dès 2015 ou 2016, mais l'objectif de réduire la surpopulation de Woluwé n'est pas atteint. Et ce, malgré la pression mise de façon asymétrique sur certaines sections.

La solution aux problèmes de surpopulation des écoles viendra donc uniquement de la réalisation d'une école additionnelle, pour laquelle les discussions avec le Gouvernement Belge avancent et, d'une refonte de la politique d'inscriptions.

Vous vous souviendrez que après l'évacuation de toute l'école de Février, le bâtiment des primaires a été évacué dans l'urgence au mois de mai. Ces deux événements ont mis en évidence des problèmes de sécurité sérieux. Les travaux d'aménagement auraient pu être réalisés pendant l'été, ou du moins on aurait pu essayer. Mais non, il y a le congé du bâtiment, la crise, les difficultés administratives, etc. L'année prochaine, il les élèves seront plus à l'étroit. De plus, le Conseil d'Administration spécial du 25 Juin a mis en évidence que l'école est en retard sur la réalisation du plan de mise en sécurité.

Les recrutements sont en cours pour remplacer les profs que le Royaume Uni ne détache plus. Nous comptons sur des profs avec un nouvel enthousiasme et de nouvelles idées. Entretemps, les états membres n'ont pas trouvé d'accord sur un partage équitable des coûts, ni semblent pressés de le faire.

Le format de cette newsletter est en évolution continue, le prochain numéro sera dans vos boîtes mail en Septembre. D'ici là, bonne vacances à tous.

In this Woluw'Info

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EC Disability Support Group

Have you ever wondered what you would do if a doctor announced that the child you're expecting or your newborn has a disability? Or if a family member had an accident and became wheelchair-bound? These are difficult questions about things we often prefer not to even think about. However, there are colleagues who have to face and cope with just such situations. In spite of the many challenges and many hurdles that have to be overcome, it can be very rewarding for the carer when they see the person they are caring for make progress.



In 2011, a small group of parents of children with disabilities created the EC Disability Support Group (EC DSG). The EC DSG is made up of people working within the EU institutions who look after a dependant with a disability. The group currently has over 100 members. It is a voluntary group, formed on the initiative of staff, and is responsible for its own activities.

Our aim is to:

- exchange information on disability issues,
- provide practical and moral support,
- establish and develop cooperation with the administration,
- raise awareness amongst staff, by way of specific actions, that disability is an issue that concerns everyone.

Members of the EC DSG are keen to help each other and give practical advice drawn from our own experience. The group has created a forum to exchange information and has set up different networks per disability. We are open to any colleague who would like to join and would welcome any help, so that together we can offer a measure of support to all those who find themselves touched in one way or another by disability.

Lisbeth Grisenthwaite, EC DG Regio,

Marta Villar, Council of the European Union

Last «day» of school 5 July

Dear Parents,

The last day of school is July 5. Children will enter for 45 minutes the school, receive their reports and then are transported back. The school management cited all kind of reasons for this particular organization which the APEEE found entirely unconvincing, the more so as other schools in Brussels have a different organization.

The benefits of 45 minutes of schooling stand against 12 000 Euros expenditure on the transport and the emission of 2.6 t of CO₂. Moreover, it requires from most parents extra organisation to look after their children for the rest of the day and compromises effectiveness of work in the Institutions and Eurocontrol. From our point of view this is clear mismanagement of taxpayers' money. We strongly have protested against such a waste of resources also in the last board meeting of the school on June 26. We demanded a proper half day of schooling like, for example, in all Belgian schools or alternatively dropping the last day. Commission and Eurocontrol agreed with our position.

Commission and Secretary General demanded a revision of the organization from the school management of the last day for next year. The APEEE agrees with better organization of the last day in future.

However we deeply regret that the school management missed again an opportunity for action, and disregarding interventions not only by the APEEE but also by Commission and Eurocontrol at an early stage in the process.

I leave it to you to judge the sensibility of the organization and the participation of your children in the last school day.

Have very good and relaxing summer holidays.

Wolfgang Münch President APEEE Bxl II Woluwe

New headmaster/mistress for Secondary

Ulrica Grankvist will not be continuing as headmistress for secondary next term. This comes after a period of prolonged absences for health reasons which kept her out of the school for much of the last term. Our thoughts are with Mme Grankvist; we wish her a fast recovery and thank her for the effort and energy she had put into the role whilst at Brussels II.

The process for finding a replacement is already well under way. Member States have been asked to present candidates, which both Italy and Germany have agreed to do. Interviews are set for July 8 and we expect the successful candidate to be in place, in time for September.

In the meantime Brigitte De Vos agreed to take over in a temporary capacity as headmistress of secondary. We are very grateful to Mme De Vos for coming forward, taking on this responsibility and ensuring continuity for the secondary pupils.

Reform of the secondary. An Update

In the previous issue of WoluweInfo you could read an article on the state of play of the reform of the secondary cycle and on our assessment.

Since then, work has continued in the working groups of the Secretariat General of the European Schools. Exchanges of correspondence took place between interparents and the Secretary General.

Several options are now on the table, including the certain choices that might be damaging for the quality of the European schools. The evolution is not reassuring.

A reform may be necessary, savings can be made in a phase of shrinking budgets. But the quality of teaching in the European schools may not be sacrificed, when it is more and more clear that the current one is not just a transitory crisis, and that our children's professional future depends on the quality of the education they receive. The quality of the secondary education is increasingly important to access good universities.

The APEEE of Woluwé fears that an official proposal might be produced without proper analysis, impact assessment and consultation very quickly, in order to be presented for adoption to the Board of Governors at their December 2013 meeting. Therefore, we decided to share all available information with parents and invite for a second parents information evening shortly before the summer holidays (<http://www.woluweparents.org/wp/association/soiree-dinformation-sur-la-reforme-des-etudes-secondaires-le-25-juin-2013/?lang=en>).

Feedback after the info evening on 25 June on reform of the secondary

Renate Repplinger Hach - Vice president of the APEEE Pedagogics, and Rachel Lancry, CEES Coordinator

For 25 June, the APEEE invited parents from all Brussels European schools to its second information evening on Secondary Reform. Although it was convened on very short notice, about 130 parents from all four schools attended. The first information evening in Woluwé had taken place on 14 March. On 25 June, parents from the schools, the parents associations and Interparents shared information about the developments and the discussions currently taking place behind closed doors in the different working groups and bodies of the European School system.

The latest ideas elaborated therein comprise what appears as a very rigid *filière* system for S6 and S7, offering a choice between science, economics and 'humanités' *filières*. The modular approach for mathematics is proposed for S4; SH (Human Sciences) and SI (Integrated sciences) shall continue beyond S3 in S4 and again even in S6 and S7. - All these elements – modular approach for mathematics, continuation of SH and SI beyond S3 – were unanimously rejected at our first parents meeting. For S4 to S7, options largely consist of 4-hour courses, thus reducing the variety of different subjects students may choose from and the number of subjects they can cover. The minimum requirements for grouping will be maintained in addition (i.e. even courses in a *filière* system would not be guaranteed but only offered if the necessary minimum group size were attained.)

Parents fear that decisions on the reform of secondary studies might be taken without proper analysis of the pedagogical and financial impacts of such option already by the Board of Governors in December 2013. Parents are worried about possible adverse effects on university admission in the different Member States, as it seems that the proposals under discussion have not been properly analysed with regard to such effects. Parents agreed that the experts should also study alternative proposals before taking a decision.

The APEEE Uccle presented its impact assessment of the proposal discussed in the working group and the alternative proposal it has elaborated and which avoids many of the rigidities of the *filière* proposal and would lead to savings. Parents from Ixelles presented the position of the NL/DE sections working group. Further alternatives – secondary campus, preserving the status quo – were also put forward and considered worth being properly analysed.

All parents are called upon to use all contacts they have in order to lobby the decision-making authorities in their respective Member States and address, preferably on behalf of their language section, the issue with their Permanent Representations, national ministries and Board of Governors representatives. The APEEEs of the Brussels schools are also in touch in order to act jointly on that issue and also provide input to Interparents, representative of all European School parents in the European School system.

Informations pratiques APEEE: cantine et transports



AVIS AUX PARENTS

Nous tenons à vous rappeler la reconduction automatique de **l'abonnement cantine** du 3^{ème} trimestre scolaire vers l'année scolaire 2013-2014. N'oubliez donc pas de demander les changements nécessaires pour le vendredi 27 septembre 2013 au plus tard via le formulaire ou par e-mail (un appel téléphonique n'est pas suffisant).

Après cette date, il ne sera plus possible de modifier un abonnement, sauf pour raison médicale. N'attendez donc pas le dernier moment, car après cette date les repas commandés (même non consommés) seront facturés automatiquement.

En ce qui concerne la fin de l'année scolaire l'abonnement cantine s'arrête :

Maternelle et primaire: le 5 juillet 2013
 Secondaire 1 à 4: le 21 juin 2013
 Secondaire 5/6/7: le premier jour des examens

Pour toute information complémentaire merci de consulter le site web de l'APEEE : www.woluweparents.org

Nous profitons de la présente pour vous souhaiter d'excellentes vacances d'été.

Merci de votre compréhension.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Your child's **canteen subscription** for the current term will be renewed automatically for the new school year (2013-2014). Please remember to make any necessary changes by Friday 27 September 2013 at the latest by returning a completed form or by sending an email (a phone call is not enough). After this date, it will no longer be possible to modify a subscription, except for medical reasons. Please do not wait until the last moment, because after this date you will be billed for all meals ordered, even if they are not actually taken.

This year's canteen subscription ends on the following dates:

Kindergarten & primary: 5 July 2013
 Secondary 1 to 4: 21 June 2013
 Secondary 5/6/7: the first day of the exams

For more information please log on the APEEE web site: www.woluweparents.org

Best wishes for a super summer holiday!

Kind regards,

Daniel Vincent
 Canteen manager



Transport Inscriptions 2013-2014: ouvertes entre le 3 et le 28 juin 2013

Nouveaux parents :

Afin d'obtenir un identifiant et un mot de passe vous permettant de faire les inscriptions aux services du transport et des activités périscolaires, il vous est demandé de remplir le formulaire de création de compte sur notre site web www.woluweparents.org. Une fois ce formulaire rempli, vous recevrez votre identifiant et votre mot de passe qui vous donneront accès à votre Espace Privé.

Transport Registration 2013-2014: between 3 and 28 June 2013

New parents

In order to obtain a login and password allowing you to enter your Secured Zone to register your children for the school bus and for extra-curricular activities, please complete the account creation form. You will then receive your login and password allowing you to register through the Secured Zone.

Familles existantes

A partir du 3 juin 2013, il vous sera possible d'effectuer vos inscriptions via votre Espace Privé à l'aide de l'identifiant et du mot de passe en votre possession. Dans le cas où vous auriez perdu ces derniers, merci de vous reporter à la page *Mot de passe oublié ?* de notre site web.

Attention :

- La réinscription des élèves au service des transports pour la nouvelle année scolaire est automatique.
- Toutes les modifications ou annulations doivent être effectuées **entre le 3 et le 28 juin 2013**, via votre espace privé.
- Toutes les nouvelles inscriptions pour l'année scolaire 2013/2014 seront traitées à partir du 3 juin et ce, jusqu'au **28 juin 2013** également.
- Toutes les modifications pour **l'année scolaire courante 2012/2013** doivent être envoyées par e-mail.

Organisation des transferts en bus de fin d'année:

- Du lundi 24 juin au jeudi 4 juillet 2013:
 - **Un seul départ de bus à 15h30 (départ normal et plus de départs à 16h20)**
 - **Garderies: numéros des bus de 15h30.**
- Les mercredis 26 juin et 3 juillet 2013:
 - **Tournées et numéros des bus de 15h30 !**
 - **Départ à 13h00.**
 - **Garderies: départ à 13h40 comme d'habitude.**

Ce mercredi 26 juin et mercredi 3 juillet 2013, nous utiliserons les mêmes numéros de bus que les départs de 15h30 (lundi/mardi/jeudi/vendredi).

Les départs se feront à 13h00 comme d'habitude.

Il n'y aura pas de changement pour les enfants inscrits à la garderie, ils iront à la cantine avant de prendre leurs bus.

- Les mercredis 19 juin, 26 juin et 3 juillet 2013:
 - **Tournées de 16h20 supprimées.**
- Vendredi 5 juillet 2013:
 - **Tournées et numéros des bus de 15h30!**
 - **Dernier jour de l'année scolaire: départ des bus à 9h30.**
 - ✓ **Garderies: numéros de 15h30.**

Existing families

From 3 June 2013, it will be possible to register your children through your Secured Zone using the login and password in your possession. Should you have lost them, please go to *Forgot your password?* on our webpage.

N.B.:

- Pupils who have used the bus service this year are automatically re-registered for the same service in the new school year.
- Any changes or cancellations must be made between **3 and 28 June 2013**, via the Secured Zone.
- New registrations for the 2013-14 school year will be processed between **3 and 28 June 2013**.
- Any changes in respect of the current school year (2012-13) must be sent by email.

Organisation of the buses at the end of the school year:

- From Monday 24 June to Thursday 4 July 2013:
 - **Only one bus departure at 15:30 (normal departure; no more buses at 16.20)**
 - **Garderie: 15:30 bus numbers**
- On Wednesdays 26 June and 3 July 2013:
 - **Routes and numbers of 15:30 buses!**
 - **Buses depart at 13:00**
 - **Garderie: Wednesdays numbers as usual**

On Wednesday 26 June and Wednesday 3 July 2013, we will use the same numbers as the afternoon (15.30) departure (Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday).
Departure at 13:00 as usual.

There will be no change for children who go to the garderie, they will go to the canteen before taking their buses.

- On Wednesdays 19 and 26 June and 3 July 2013:
 - **16:20 bus departure cancelled**
- Friday, 5 July 2013:
 - **Routes and numbers of 15:30 buses!**
 - **Last day of school: Buses depart at 9:30.**
 - **Garderie: 15.30 bus numbers**

Pedagogical issues

SCIENCE CORNER – I episode - *Carlo de Grandis*

Cross-media as a tool for scientific education: The Cloud Chamber Project

A spectacular, innovative, cross-media tool, matched with a thriller – what can you ask for more, to enhance interest in a fascinating scientific subject such as The Space (& associated physics)? That's what the Danish Researcher Christian Christian Fønnesbech has come up with "The Cloud Chamber", developed with an impressive partnership including the European Space Agency and MICROSOFT.

The description found in Vimeo is quite enlightening: "Cloud Chamber is a science drama inspired by space. Herein players collaborate to uncover the story of a young scientist who has risked her sanity and betrayed her father in order to save humanity from itself."

The science is real, the story is fiction and the truth about space unknown. It is fiction with documentary elements - Internet-centred with extensions to mobile and TV." "A science drama inspired by space. Players collaborate to uncover the story of a young scientist who has risked her sanity and betrayed her father in order to save humanity from itself."

You can access the following episode while solving the problems pointed out in the previous ones – the whole concept has been debated during an ad hoc lunchtime conference in DG EAC.

The Cloud Chamber Project on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CloudChamberMystery> and on Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/41343123> (Cloud Chamber (DEN) Fiction: Cross-Media Online | mobile | TV
Producer: Vibeke Windelov | Director: Christian Fønnesbech | Writer: Darin Mailand-Mercado.

The same author has previously launched the successful Galathea Mystery (on Climatology and Global change, Electrical engineering and more): http://issuu.com/victorj/docs/theclimatemystery_intro

And here's how it worked to fill in Copenhagen University Engineering faculty: <http://www.cifs.dk/scripts/artikel.asp?id=1587&lng=1>

...but also MINECRAFT is playing educational

Some of us (including myself) have worried since quite a while noticing symptoms of MINECRAFT dependence – medical definition of "Heavy Minecraft Addiction" has been worked out to examine this phenomenon. If you belong to the lucky ones that do not have a clue on MINECRAFT, you might have a look to the wiki created by the world-wide community: http://www.minecraftwiki.net/wiki/Minecraft_Wiki, look at a more objective Wikipedia description <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minecraft>, or you might just skip it.

What is new about it is that this independent video game is evolving towards an educational tool in cooperation with teams of experts from the United States and Finland: for a general description of the project: <http://minecrafteu.com/page/>

The web-page for parents is still being structured, but, in order to deepen your knowledge, you might access the user-friendly wiki for users (teachers, educational experts, etc.): http://minecrafteu.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page, or peer into the gallery of real-world examples: http://minecrafteu.com/wiki/index.php?title=Real-world_Examples

BAC results analysis now available on APEEE website

by Giles Houghton Clarke

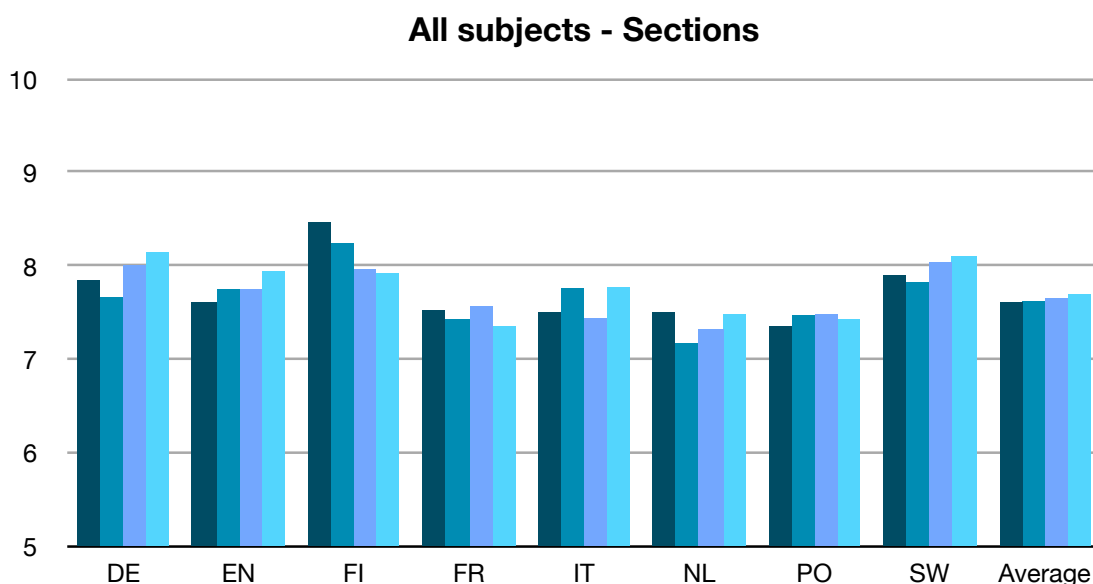
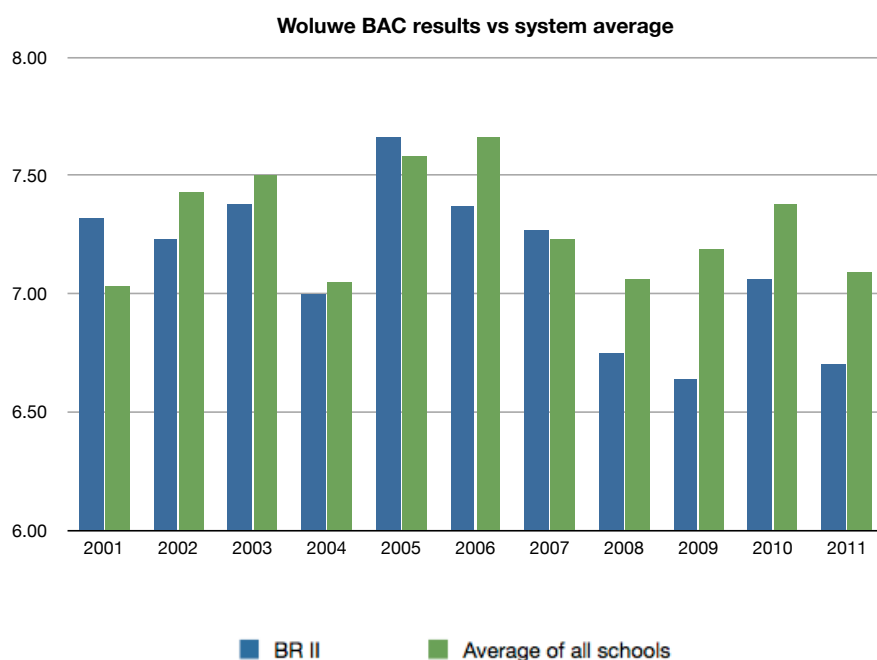
The APEEE's analysis of the Woluwe School BAC results is now available on the APEEE website as a presentation.

The analysis is provided per section and per subject, covering the years 2008-2011. The results were to be presented to parents in a joint session with the school, which has now had to be postponed due to Mme Grankvist's absence.

Please visit the website to review the results. If you have any comments or questions, please raise these with your teachers or send these to Anja Galle <anja.galle@woluweparents.org>. We are interested to get parent feedback on the results and to raise any key questions with the school

management in one of the education committee meetings.

Two graphs below give a snapshot. We continue to see persistent differences between sections and subjects. The good news is that BAC results are rising slightly each year on average - so we are moving in the right direction, but we also continue to see that the Woluwe school performs less well than the European School system average. This is worrying and needs to be addressed. Short maths in particular remains a concern; it is the worst performing subject across sections and years. The school has set up a special workgroup to investigate the reasons for this and we hope to have something to report soon.



Le courrier des lecteurs

Nous inaugurons ici la rubrique du courrier des lecteurs. Vous pouvez écrire à l'APEEE et l membre du Cd'A responsable vous répondra. A l'avenir, merci de garder vos lettres d'une longueur max de 250 mots.



Quality of the canteine

Dear Giles,

I am writing about the 'quality' of the meals provided by the school canteen. My daughter and most of her class's pupils show dissatisfaction because of the menu options, lack of attention to some important details (taste, nutritional value of meals, and health), and for the environment in which they take their lunch. The following are the main problem areas that emerge from the monitoring of the menus, from the children's comments and from observation of the canteen:

- As an example, the 8-12 April menu included 'sauté de dinde à l'ancienne', 'porc ibérique' and 'grillade de boeuf bearnaise'. In the 15-19 April week, 'goulash de porc aux poivrons' and 'mousaka boeuf & agneau' were proposed. In the 6-10 May week, 'carré the porc fumé' and mini loempias avec légumes chinois' were the specialities. More often than not, cardboard-like 'pizza maison' is included in the menu;
- Such meals are theoretically nutritionally balanced but contain too much fat, too many sauces, too many meat stews, badly heated pizzas, (occasionally) pasta overcooked (hence lacking most of its taste and nutritional value), little vegetables, not tasty and appealing to children;
- Fruit is often served unripe. Food managers need to let it ripen, and to rotate the ripe pieces, ready to serve, and if needed newly bought fruit are to be left in the warehouse for some time;
- There may be a nutritionist doctor to advice the canteen managers, but meals do not seem suitable to children with a long school day, and who want not the usual meat stew (an easy option, as it simply involves cauldron-cooking of a bunch of ingredients) and stale bread, or a piece of cardboard-like pizza, possibly frozen;
- Hygiene in the canteen is questionable: the canteen assistants (those who pass around the trays and bread baskets) seem unaware of basic hygiene rules. They touch repeatedly the bread and even the salads with their bare hands (no gloves), and help themselves to the food (with their bare hands). It makes sense to suggest that hygiene be a priority, and that strict, non-negotiable rules be applied to the canteen hall (notably to the staff in charge of distributing, serving the food and helping with the trays), not only to the food preparation area. The periodic HACCP reports should be made available to the APEE Board, as well as the measures adopted to remedy any observed shortcomings.

Some but not all of the above issues are a result of the limited means allowed for the catering and attending services; I am convinced that even with the limited means available, the food managers and canteen managers could do a much better job: i) by managing the food in a customer-oriented way; ii) by conceiving tasty and balanced meals for the school pupils listening to the parents suggestions, rather than to the generic advice of nutritionists about food pyramids, as food can be compliant with the pyramid, but prove un-edible; ii) by keeping constantly in mind that customer satisfaction is paramount, especially in the catering industry . I'm available to provide additional details and to spell out some other practical suggestions, if need be.

Kind regards,
G. Cacciato

Answer by Giles Houghton-Clarke, Vice President, Administration

Dear Giuseppe

thank you for you letter, we very much welcome feedback; its by listening to our customers that we can improve. With this in mind, we recently conducted a wide ranging satisfaction survey for the canteen and cafeteria, the results of which are published on our website.

One issue you highlight is that certain meals are less popular than others. We agree that this is important feedback and therefore as of next term we will be launching a web site so that pupils and teachers can tell us what they think directly about every meal by registering 'likes' and 'dislikes'. We will also be expanding on the very popular 'wish week' with other ideas to engage pupils and offer appetising meals that also meet nutritional requirements. Needless to say, preparing 2600 meals a day is no small task, therefore there are limitations on what we can do.

In terms of the specific points you raise, the stews you mention are typically 3 meals out of 24, which we do not feel is excessive. In terms of the nutritional balance, we engage a nutritionists to ensure that we do provide the correct nutritional balance, and we follow her advice.

Our pizzas are now made in the kitchens, and very popular with the children (plates are quickly emptied), so I am surprised at your feedback on this issue. Ensuring all vegetables and pasta is always 'al dente' when it arrives at the table will be a challenge in any large catering operation, nevertheless we use flash cooking to ensure vegetables are not over cooked and we have our own pasta making equipment so our pasta is always fresh. You may have noticed that we have also recently renewed the food trolleys. The new ones have a special system to ensure food does not dry out or get over cooked during transfer. Bread and fruit is delivered fresh each day. Of course, not all dishes are going to be popular, which is where feedback like yours is useful.

Regarding the comments on hygiene, we are supervised by Euroconsultants who audit the kitchen annually on hygiene, working practices and infrastructure. HACCP audit reports are available to everyone at the canteen office. An report is sent to the APEEE Board annually, and in addition the APEEE undertakes an annual risk assessment and compliance audit.

We are subject to Belgian law and AFSCA (Agence Fédérale pour le Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire) gave us authorization for catering. The serving staff have anti-bacteriological gels at disposal which are used several times per shift. A clean hand is better than a dirty glove.

All parents have the right to have a lunch in the canteen, once a month. I understand you have been invited to a meeting in the kitchen to discuss your concerns in greater detail, I would urge you to take up that offer. I hope that you will feel that if we are not yet meeting all your expectations yet, we are certainly working on getting there.

Parenting seminars to be offered from September -

The APEEE is organising a series of seminars targeting parents, to be held at the school's premises over the next school year.

These seminars/ debates with (Q&A) will cover topics of concern to the parent group at large and will give us occasion to discuss issues with which we are or may be all confronted on a daily basis. The speakers will be clinical psychologists specialising in the care of adolescent and children. Languages covered will be FR/EN/ NL. The first meeting is fixed, the other dates will be communicated at a later stage once the school calendar will be fixed.

- Tips for communicating with teenagers – helping our children grow with positivity and

self-confidence (17th September 2013, from 19h30 in the Salle Polyvalente)

- Career guidance and career coaching - what is our role as parents? The target group here would be parents of upper secondary.
 - Teenage troubles, parents concerns - how to cope with the issues they face: alcohol/ drug abuse / sexuality/ self harm)? This would cover a panoply of subjects / issues (alcohol/ drug abuse / sexuality)
 - Children and families in a world of internet and social media – how to cope? This would target all parents with children in secondary.
- Stay tuned for more details on our newsletter or the Association's website.

Brenda Maher, APEEE Board Member

C'est arrivé près de chez vous

nouvelles des activités periscolaires

European Schools Swimming Team

Maura Varano and the ESB team

Nice weather, a good barbecue and a friendly spirit have closed the 2012/2013 swimming season of the ESB Swimming Team, the team collecting swimmers from all European Schools of Brussels.

The President and the Headcoach presented the great results obtained by our children: the team, composed of 72 swimmers, participated to the EFSL championship which regroups the 18 teams of the US forces, Nato and European Union throughout Europe, reached a brilliant 2nd place in the Divisional and broke several long standing records. This result has been possible also thanks to our Woluwe swimmers: Enrico, Manuela, Julia, Elea, Marina, Philippe, Michael, Jasmin, Ellen and Allison.

Next season will start with the preparation stage on the 7th and 8th of September, while the first competition will be here in Brussels on the 13th of October.

Primary and Secondary students, good swimmers, willing to participate and compete in a open and relaxed environment can find more information on the team site www.esb-octopus.eu or contact Olivier, the Headcoach, at Headcoach@esb-octopus.eu.

Vanessa Poll dance show

Anna Holmén, mother of three children in secondary (SE)

On 15 May the extracurricular dance teacher, Vanessa Poll, presented her annual dance show. Vanessa, as we all know her, this year joined all her dance classes in one show – Peter Pan. Tinker Bell and her fairies danced classical ballet, Mr and Mrs Darling danced salsa on their night out and the stage in the salle polyvalent filled up with lost children, pirates and Indians of different sizes dancing jazz. Some clever solutions had been found to include all the groups in the story, like the dance of the cuddly toys, the gifts and the air hostesses accompanying the children flying to Neverland.

Two narrators steered us through the show in their second language French, speaking clearly and confidently, even when they came straight from a dance. We also enjoyed two young solo singers in the songs "La Nuit" and "Forever young". Several actors filled the different parts of the story - Peter Pan (on in-lines), Wendy and her family, Captain Hook and Mr Smee, the crocodile (equipped with a scooter) and, as mentioned earlier, Tinker Bell. The best shows are the ones where the actors really enjoy themselves, and this was the case here.

No show can be successfully staged without a committed backstage crew. Just as many of her young dancers, Vanessa had brought her mother, who singlehandedly had made all the costumes and who helped out with hair for all of the cast.

The only comment to make is perhaps that even if the salle polyvalent feels more like a real theatre, the view is better in the sports hall, especially if you want an overview of the choreography. Maybe a simple set could be arranged in the sports hall using material?

For me as a proud parent the show is a very special occasion. Making it into a musical gives the children the opportunity to develop other artistic skills than dancing. However, the most important aspect of the dance classes should always be to make sure that all the pupils enjoy dancing, and get exercise in a fun way.



Activités parascolaires : du bonheur partagé !

de Françoise ROS-BREFORT

Quelle joie pour moi, chaque lundi, mardi et mercredi, de retrouver « mes enfants » !

Les petits groupes de 8 à 12 élèves qui viennent passer un moment avec moi pour une activité parascolaire sont pleins de vie, ont envie de découvrir le monde qui les entoure et sont adorables.

Mon but est de leur enseigner la langue française. Même si ce n'est pas facile d'apprendre une langue étrangère, ils y mettent tous de la bonne volonté et le cours se passe dans la bonne humeur et la détente.

Oh, bien sûr, il y a quelques petits dérapages... des bavardages, des envies irrésistibles de jouer, des craintes, des découragements... Mais, nous formons une équipe et chaque élève en est conscient : cette solidarité nous permet de dépasser ces problèmes et nous avançons sagement et sûrement.



Il y a aussi des moments inoubliables de « fou rire » ou de pitrerie... des moments magiques où l'on apprend à souhaiter la fête des mamans, des papas, où l'on chante Noël ou Carnaval... des moments d'émotion lorsqu'un membre de notre équipe a un petit frère ou une petite sœur... Bref, des instants de bonheur partagé.

Et comme chaque semaine, mes collègues et moi-même attendons impatiemment de retrouver nos classes et prenons