



NEWSLETTER OF BERKENDAEL CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

FOR PARENTS BY PARENTS

Berkendael School

December Newsletter

2018/2019

CHERS PARENTS

Nous espérons que cette 1ère partie d'année a été douce pour chacun de vos enfants. Beaucoup de pluie et une météo grisâtre n'entacheront pas le plaisir des retrouvailles familiales et amicales à venir.

Nous voyons aussi plein de petits plaisirs en provenance de notre école ces temps-ci... pas vous?

Les enfants préparent des petits spectacles pour cette fin d'année, chouette!

Les parents préparent des petits gouters post-spectacle, miam!


La fête de l'école sera le 18 mai et j'ai plein d'idées à partager avec les organisateurs, j'ai même envie de me porter volontaire, youpi!

Cette newsletter est vraiment utile et sympathique, j'aimerais bien y contribuer, j'en ai la possibilité en contactant Noémie, quelle bonne idée!

Allez chiche nous lançons un défi, pour la prochaine newsletter, chaque section linguistique nous envoie une ch'tite note à insérer!

Avec tous ces beaux projets autour de l'école, nous vous disons « à l'année prochaine! ».

Noémie Beigbeder



Do not hesitate to send us your pictures and brief text to be inserted in the newsletter!

apee.berkendael@gmail.com

mise à jour toujours en cours

**UCCLEPARENTS.ORG/
BERKENDAEL**

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Call for parents to join the newsletter and website teams!

Please contact Noémie via
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News from BK APEEE working group

Representation of Berkendael Parents in the APEEE EEB1

Henning Ehrenstein

With Berkendael formally part of the European School Brussels I (EEB 1) – jointly with its main Uccle site – the Berkendael parent representation also takes place as part of the structures of EEB 1. Thus, the Berkendael Working Group is a group set up by the APEEE EEB 1 Administrative Board; the APEEE EEB 1 Services run the school busses not only at Uccle, but also at Berkendael etc.

The central decision-making body of the APEEE EEB1 is its Administrative Board. It consists of 26 board members. Members of the Berkendael working group have so far attended meetings of the Board as observers, participating in all discussions, but without a right to vote. Following lengthy discussions, the BERK Working Group together with the Legal Working Group proposed an amendment to the statutes of the board that would guarantee **Berkendael class representatives a minimum of 5 voting members** and Uccle a minimum of 17 voting members. The remaining 4 members would be voted from among any class representatives at Berkendael or Uccle (the total of 26 members would remain unchanged).

The amendment would ensure a broadly comparable representation of parents from the Uccle and Berkendael sites in terms of number of parent representatives per students (3600 students at Uccle; BERK capacity being 1000 students). The change of the statutes would take effect next school year. The amendment was adopted by the Administrative Board on 29 November. It will now need to be approved by the General Assembly, following which the statutes will need to be changed by a notary and then be published. The amendment includes a sunset clause, whereby it would cease to have effect if Berkendael was to become an independent school separate from EEB 1.



Enrolment procedure for next year

Henning Ehrenstein

The Enrolment Board met in total four times during the autumn to prepare draft enrolment guidelines for the 2019/20 school year. These draft guidelines have been sent to the Board of the European Schools for discussion and approval.

The guidelines are set in the context of a significant number of children attending the European schools in Brussels, up from approximately 10.000 in 2012 to approximately 13.000 this year. The number of pupils seeking education in French is growing in particular. The rise in total student numbers has led to the Ixelles, Woluwe and Uccle sites to operate above capacity and to Laeken operating at full capacity. The only Brussels site with spare capacity remains Berkendael, which is why the guidelines similarly to last year envisage a further increase of student numbers at our campus. A central point of discussion during the meetings of the Enrolment Board was how best to do this. During the discussions, Berkendael parent representatives cautioned against opening too many new classes at Berkendael, insisting that once a class was opened in a given language, that language should be taught at Berkendael from M1 through to P5, thereby ensuring a coherent and consistent maternelle and primary education. Parent representatives argued that this required maintaining a certain number of classrooms in stock (example: given that a Spanish MAT has been set up, class rooms will need to be reserved for Spanish P1-P5) and warned against the opening of too many ultimately unsustainable language sections/satellite classes.

As concerns existing sections, the school is planning for M1 – P5 classes for FR, LV and SK. The school is equally planning for M1 – P4 in DE and for M1 – P1 in EL, EN, ES and IT. Under certain conditions (minimum number of interested pupils), higher classes (up to P5) may also be opened in these languages (decision to be taken as a function of enrolments in spring 2019) as well as additional languages at BERK.

Concerning the allocation of S1 places to Berkendael P5 pupils, all members of the Enrolment Board agreed from the outset that the first enrolment priority will next year again be given to BERK P5 children in the allocation of any available S1 places in Brussels. Siblings of transferring BERK P5 pupils would equally obtain first priority to be transferred to another site at the same time. Parents will be asked to indicate the preferred Brussels school to which they would like their children to be transferred to. The allocation of places will be conditional upon the availability of places, but all children are guaranteed a place at one of the Brussels school sites.





News from periscolaire and school party teams

Stephanie Ressort

A vos agendas ! La fete de l'école aura lieu

samedi 18 mai 2019 de 10h à 16h!

Les enfants, les enseignants, l'équipe de Direction et bien sûr vous les parents êtes la clé de son succès. Pour tout contact, question etc. adressez vous au WG BK APEEE qui transmettra à l'équipe organisatrice.

Il reste encore quelques places pour les activités périscolaires. Pour mémoire, l'adresse du site internet est :

<https://services.uccleparents.org/node/1>

Le prix des activités sera adapté en fonction du nombre de cours à venir.

Shoebox

Stephanie Ressort

Comme annoncé dans la première newsletter, l'opération SHOEBBOX est lancée dans notre école aussi ! Les parents et les enfants peuvent commencer à apporter les boîtes cadeau depuis le mardi 4 décembre.

Les professeurs présenteront le concept et aborderont le sujet des plus démunis avec les enfants, selon leur âge.

End date: 14 Dec 2018





News from sections

Hundert Lichter in der Dunkelheit - zwei Jahre Sankt-Martins-Umzug in Berkendael

Christian Braun & Lia Keune

Zum zweiten Mal haben Kinder und Eltern der deutschsprachigen Sektion das gefeiert und damit an den heiligen Martin von Tours, der im 4. Jahrhundert lebte, erinnert.

Es begann letztes Jahr. Die neue Fuchsklasse (aktuelle P2) war gerade gestartet, da wurde die Idee geboren, gemeinsam einen St. Martins-Umzug zu veranstalten. 2017 zogen wir zum ersten Mal los - noch im kleinen Kreis, mit zwei Klassen. Die Kinder hatten zuvor mit großer Hingabe in der Schule Laternen gebastelt. So auch dieses Jahr - nur dass der Club größer wurde. Neben unserer neuen P1 konnten wir auch eine der beiden Maternelle Klassen begrüßen - der Umzug zählte nun weit über 100 Teilnehmer!

Los ging's auch in diesem Jahr im Dudenpark (Forest). Und auch wenn es sich als gar nicht so einfach herausstellte, einen derart großen Zug zu führen und zusammen zu halten, kamen schließlich alle wohlbehalten ins Ziel. Dort angekommen, wurden wir belohnt mit Original-Weckmännchen aus Deutschland und schwedischem Glühwein - mitten in der belgischen Hauptstadt. Wenn das nicht gelebtes Europa ist...

One hundred Lights in the Dark - two years of Saint Martin's procession at Berkendael school

Christian Braun & Lia Keune

For the second time, children and parents of the Germanophone section celebrated the lantern procession, a widespread tradition in Germany going back to Saint Martin of Tours who lived during the 4th century.

It all started last year. The Germanophone first primary class had barely kicked off, when the idea of a lantern procession was born. The idea quickly gained ground, so in 2017 we could celebrate our first lantern procession. What started off as a small group with only two classes in 2017 had grown into a huge event this November - with well over 100 participants! Just as last year, the children had put much energy in creating beautiful lanterns in class.

The procession - just as last year - started off in Parc Duden in Forest. Although getting the huge group going was not as easy as anticipated, things finally ran smoothly. Having reached the destination safely, children and parents could enjoy authentic German *Weckmännchen* (special sweet bread) as well as Swedish mulled wine and hot chocolate. All that in the centre of the Belgian capital - is there a better way to put Europe into practice?

Ein klarer Sternenhimmel sowie der Panoramablick auf die Lichter der Stadt rundete unser gemütliches Beisammensein im Anschluss an das Laternenfest ab.

'Unsere' Tradition ist nun zwei Jahre alt, jedoch reichen die Wurzeln des St. Martins-Umzuges viel weiter zurück - nämlich bis ins 4. Jahrhundert. Der Legende nach teilte Martin, der im vierten Jahrhundert Soldat bei der römischen Armee war, seinen Mantel mit seinem Schwert und schenkte die eine Hälfte einem frierenden Bettler. Es war ein harter Wintertag mit klirrendem Frost und dank des halben Mantelteils überlebte der Bettler. Für diese gute Tat wird der Heilige Martin heute noch verehrt. Der Martinstag gilt als der Tag der 'Nächstenliebe' und 'Hilfsbereitschaft'. Jedes Jahr finden rund um den 11. November Martinsumzüge statt. Kinder laufen mit bunten, selbstgebastelten Laternen durch die dunklen Straßen und singen Martinslieder. Vielerorts werden danach die 'Weckmänner' geteilt und zusammen gegessen.

Wir freuen uns, dass Ihr so zahlreich erschienen seid. Herzlichen Dank an alle organisierenden Eltern! Auf ein Neues im Jahr 2019!

And yes, we were lucky with the weather, too! - a clear night and a panoramic view of the city lights contributed to turning our lantern procession into a memorable event.

Even though 'our' tradition is only two years old, the roots of the Saint Martin's procession go back much further. During the fourth century, Saint Martin was a Roman soldier. According to the famous legend, he once cut his cloak in two to share it with a beggar during a snowstorm, to save him from the cold. Since then St. Martin has been known as patron of the poor. Saint Martin's is celebrated around November 11 each year. Children walk in processions carrying colorful lanterns and sing songs about St. Martin. In many places in Germany the 'Weckmänner' are shared among the kids to remember Sankt Martin's charity.

We are glad that so many of you participated in our procession. Many thanks for all helping hands! We are looking forward to 2019!

04/12 Meeting of german speaking section with DE and AT authorities

Henning Ehrenstein

Zweites Treffen der deutschsprachigen Elternvertreter aller Brüsseler Schulen mit Vertretern der deutschen und österreichischen Regierungen

Die Elternvertreter der deutschsprachigen 'Sektionen' aller Schulen in Brüssel trafen sich am 4. Dezember mit den für die Europaschulen verantwortlichen Mitarbeitern der deutschen und österreichischen Bildungsministerien. Ein Hauptthema war wieder die Rekrutierung deutschsprachiger Lehrer. So haben Elternvertreter auf eine ausgewogene Balance zwischen abgeordneten und lokal rekrutierten Lehrkräften gedrungen (da beide kategorien von Lehrern ihre eigenen Erfahrungen mitbringen) und an Hand von Beispielen (u.a. Berkendael: fast 100 Kinder in deutschsprachigen Klassen aber nur eine aus DE abgeordnete Lehrkraft) erläutert, dass DE und AT hier mehr unternehmen müssen. DE insbesondere erklärte allerdings dass man sehr viele Lehrer abordnet, diese allerdings häufig andere Standorte

als Brüssel bevorzugen, u.a. aufgrund der relativ hohen Lebenshaltungskosten hier. Die Bereitschaft von deutscher Seite hier mehr zu unternehmen schien leider begrenzt.

Andere berkendaelspezifische Themen waren die Priorität für BERK P5 Kinder bei der Vergabe von S1 Plätzen (wird ja auch für unsere 'Sektion' relevant werden) und die Kapazität und Infrastruktur von BERK.





News from the school

KIVA

Noemie Beigbeder

Le 14/11 vous avez tous reçu un message de l'école annonçant le lancement pour l'année scolaire de KIVA programme qui vise à lutter contre le harcèlement et ses mécanismes dans le milieu scolaire, et renforce positivement la dynamique de groupe. Devant l'équipe enseignante et les parents délégués disponibles, tous les enfants de l'école ont chanté « Moi je suis comme ça, et alors ? » Des enfantastiques, et ont distribué des clémentines sur lesquelles chaque enfant avait inscrit un mot gentil.

<http://www.kivaprogram.net/fr>



Reports of recent meetings attended by your parents representatives

24/10

Meeting of the Berkendael APEEE working group with Mr Longo

The informel report drafted by the APEE WG members was sent to all parents by their class representatives. If not the case, please refer to your class rep directly.

25/10

Groupe de suivi

Henri Vanheusden

Le groupe de suivi s'est réuni le 25 octobre dernier, la réunion était essentiellement consacrée aux travaux de la task force « 5^{ème} école européenne ». Pour rappel une task force a été constituée à l'initiative de l'Ambassadeur Martin afin de donner nouvelle impulsion à ce dossier

- Localisation de 5^{ème} école

Le Ministère de la défense (belge) a ou aurait dû soumettre une note au Conseil des Ministres, les informant que la Défense a identifié le terrain de la nouvelle école européenne. Ancien site de l'OTAN le long du boulevard Léopold III à Evere. Mise à disposition prévue vers la mi-2019. La note aurait dû être validée à la mi-octobre ?

D'ici la fin de l'année la Régie des Bâtiments compte pouvoir soumettre une note conseil des Ministres concernant la reprise du site au ministère de la Défense.

Sans changer l'affectation du terrain du terrain la Régie a l'intention de démolir les bâtiments existants et reconstruire une école aux normes requises.

15/11

Pedagogical council meeting

The official report by Direction of school has been sent by email to all parents by their class representatives. If not the case, please refer to your class rep directly.

La date de livraison de l'école n'a pas été mentionnée, mais devrait se situer vers septembre 2023.

question de la pérennisation du site de Berkendael devrait pouvoir trouver une réponse dans la même occasion.

- Solution transitoires

Vu le surpeuplement dans les écoles européennes et compte du délai de livraison de la 5^{ème} école des mesures transitoires ont été envisagées et concernent uniquement les élèves de S6 et S7 deux sites. Un bâtiment a été identifié pour les accueillir provisoirement à la rentrée 2020. Il s'agit du bâtiment de la « Trésorerie » à l'avenue des Arts qui est proche de la station de métro ARTS-LOI. Un groupe de travail, Régie des Bâtiments, Ecoles européennes (Secrétariat général des Ecoles européennes et Woluwe) ..., étudie la faisabilité du projet. La Direction de la Sécurité de la DG HR a déjà posé quant aux mesures de sécurité. L'APEEE des écoles européennes a demandé avec insistance d'être associé à ce groupe de travail. Ce qui semble difficile à ce stade du dossier sous prétexte que l'on est seulement à la phase préliminaire de l'étude.

- La prochaine réunion du groupe de suivi aurait dû avoir lieu à la mi-novembre.

21/11

APEEE BK WG

Report from meeting with the new school Director Mr Goggins

On 21 November, member of the Berkendael Working Group met with the Director of the European School Brussels 1 (Uccle and Berkendael), Mr Goggins, as well with Deputy-Director Mr Longo (responsible for the Berkendael campus). Mr Goggins was appointed Director of our school at the beginning of this school year. He succeeded Ms Ruiz, who retired. Mr Goggins is of Irish nationality and was previously Director of the European School in Mol (Flanders). The meeting served to discuss three main issues: school enrolment policy; school infrastructure; recruitment of teachers.

As regards the enrolment policy and guidelines to be adopted at the European Schools board meeting in December, Mr Goggins agreed that it is key that BERK P5 pupils are given first priority in the allocation of available S1 places and that the current draft of enrolment policy and guidelines correctly reflect this. Both sides moreover welcomed that siblings of P5 kids can transfer with their older siblings to the new school at the moment of the transfer of that older sibling to S1.

Mr Goggins moreover agreed that in the interest of coherent section and satellite sections, the opening of classes in additional languages must be limited at BERK. He shared our view that once classes in a language are opened, this language should be taught at all maternelle/primaire levels at BERK. This requires the availability of infrastructure.

Concerning the school infrastructure, Mr Goggins informed us that despite the best efforts of the school it is no longer likely that the Belgian government will renovate the currently empty building at the back of the BERK campus in time for the next school year.

This means that the working assumption of the school is now that the building housing the OIB garderie will as of next school year also house BERK school classes (likely P4 & P5 classes). Similar arrangements whereby classrooms are used in the morning by the school and in the afternoon by the garderie are in place in Uccle as well as other schools in Brussels and function without big problems. Practical arrangements would need to be made (eg storage of school material during garderie hours and vice-versa).

On the recruitment of teachers, we appealed to the school to plan and prepare the recruitment of teachers early on, even if it may not always be clear how many teachers will in the end be needed (depending on the actual creation of classes, the final decision on which is only take in August for September). Mr Goggins agreed that the teaching body at the BERK and UCCLE sites should in each section and non-section consist of both, seconded teachers from MS and locally recruited teachers. While clearly no one group of teachers is of a higher quality than the other, each group tends to bring a specific set of experiences and both EEB 1 school sites should benefit from a mixed body of teachers (seconded and locally recruited). Mr Goggins furthermore informed parent representatives of ongoing efforts to improve the employment conditions for locally recruited teachers, which are not as they should be.

29/11

Henning Ehrenstein

Second meeting of the administrative board of the APEEE of the European School I (Uccle & Berkendael sites)

The second meeting of the APEEE EEB1 Administrative Board took place on 29 November. The main item was the preparation of the annual General Assembly on 6 December, including a report on the annual accounts and budget.

The Board also approved the proposed amendment to the statutes of the APEEE, giving Berkendael parent representatives a guaranteed number of 5 seats on the Board and one Vice-President for as long as Berkendael remains part of the EEB 1 (see separate article).

Additional items discussed were planned proposals by the parent association for school guidance on the use of smartphones and guidelines for care and prevention of addiction. On both issues, a consultation of all parents will follow next.

29/11

Comité Cantine

La 1ère réunion du comité cantine a eu lieu le 29/11. Deux parents représentants y participaient. Le compte-rendu officiel de la Direction sera envoyé par mail séparé à tous les parents via les représentants de parents de chaque classe.

6/12

Henning Ehrenstein

APEEE Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the parents association took place on 6 December. Around 100 class reps from the Uccle and Berkendael sites attended.

Mr Brian Goggins, the Director of the Brussels I European School (Uccle & Berkendael sites) gave an introduction and responded to questions from parents. On Berkendael specifically, he explained that in his view the Berkendael site would remain in place for the foreseeable future. He did not think that Berkendael would become the new fifth school in Brussels, but instead would remain part of the Brussels I School for some time. He also did not expect the fifth school to open any time soon and referred to the fact that the Belgian government had still not taken any formal decision on the establishment of that fifth school (despite reports to the contrary in the Belgian media in the summer). In response to more than one question on the matter, Mr Goggins assured that he would do his best to support BERK P5 transfer requests and would not stand in the way of transfers to the Uccle site, but that the decision was ultimately for the Enrolment Board to take. He explained that a balance needed to be struck between the interests of all parents and that the Uccle site was already very full.

During a series of votes, three Berkendael class representatives were elected on the Board of the APEEE, namely Henning Ehrenstein (DE), Marek Bobis (SK) and Gundars Ostrovskis (LV). This is a significant improvement of the representation of the Berkendael compared to last year, when no Berkendael class representatives were formal board members (meaning we attended board meetings as non-voting observers).

Although there was overwhelming support for a change to the APEEE statutes to award a minimum number of five board members and a Vice-President to Berkendael parents, the quorum required for a statute change was not reached as less than 50% of all class representatives attended the meeting. A new general assembly will therefore have to be called; it will be able to vote on the statute change without the need for a minimum quorum.

The annual activity report, accounts for the past year and budget for the coming year were also all approved.





Notes de la rédaction

Noemie Beigbeder

Sur le **harcèlement scolaire**, voir la très intéressante approche de Emmanuelle Picquet qui avait été invitée à Bruxelles au printemps dernier par l'APEEE Uccle pour une conférence pour les parents des écoles européennes. N'hésitez pas à visionner son TEDx sur le net « Mieux armer les enfants contre le harcèlement scolaire: Emmanuelle Piquet »



Si vous souhaitez mieux connaître comment **le cerveau de vos enfants** fonctionnent et comment les aider dans leur **apprentissage**, Metamo et Mathemo, 2 ASBL belges spécialisées en logopédie, organisent des chouettes conférences très instructives pour les parents (et aussi des ateliers et stages pour les enfants et les parents).

La prochaine conférence est **le 11 janvier**, à Forest, à proximité de l'école. Pour avoir testé, on ne peut que les recommander ! Pour plus de renseignements :

<https://www.metamo.be/>