

Future of the Community Building Working Group

The Community Building WG has played a key role in our APEEE over the last five years. The aim of the group is to foster school community, especially through outreach activities to parents and to other members of the school community, i.e. students, teachers, management, Services. Six areas currently fall under the scope of CBWG activities:

- Solidarity and Sustainability
- Community-member driven projects involving a community building objective
- Free time and spaces and related school logistics and infrastructure
- Welcome (initiatives for new students and their families)
- School events and parties (including but not limited to the Fete de l'Ecole)
- School image campaigns (sweatshirts, etc.)

It has undertaken the following:

- Rentre welcome tables and presentations to parents and particularly to new families
- "Free Time and Free Spaces" initiatives on improving the spaces and activities on the school site, generally with Student Committee (e.g. Football pitch, Peace Tree, Playground renewal, Cafeteria refurbishing, etc.)
- Student Committee support: discos, sweatshirts, Free Time and Free Spaces activities, general liaison with committee over the school year
- Solidarity and Sustainability Projects, focusing on outreach to the local community and on activating students (e.g. Green School WG, Values Project—also with Bien Etre)
- Coordination of community projects, vetting projects and serving as liaison in particular with teachers and students running projects (e.g. Francis Pirotta Project, Eurosport, MUNUccle)
- Teacher appreciation activities (e.g. Teacher appreciation day coffee-cart)
- Fete coordination and support (e.g. Activities and Solidarity Village coordination at 60 Year Anniversary Fete)

The Community Building WG has been looking for a new coordinator for the past six months. Without proper coordination many of its activities will not move ahead. The APEEE seeks interested Board Members or Board attendees to coordinate the work of Community Building.

ANNEX

CBWG (Community Building Working Group) Mandate 2019

The EEB1 APEEE Community Building Working Group was founded in 2015 as an organ that could examine and enable initiatives that increase the sense of community, mutual respect and school "ownership" among students, school staff and parents. Beyond the wish to add value and values to the school environment, it was also considered that disinterest and negative views of school, peers and colleagues may be at the root of some risky behaviours exhibited by students (including for example vandalism, harassment, addictions). The CBWG seeks to enable initiatives by all members of the school community to make the school a better place to live, learn and work together, whether by mobilizing APEEE financing, organizing or promoting activities, or raising awareness about values including, but not limited to, solidarity, sustainability, respect, team spirit, belonging.

To this end the CBWG reserves the right to accept or initiate meetings with any members of the extended school community (including but not limited to student representatives and activists; school teachers and other staff members and decisionmakers; staffmembers auxiliary to the school such as security and APEEE services; parents; private and public members of the community surrounding the school; vendors or other providers of goods and services linked to CBWG activities).

In 2019, six **areas** fall under the scope of CBWG activities:

- Solidarity and Sustainability
- Community-member driven projects involving a community building objective
- Free time and spaces and related school logistics and infrastructure
- Welcome (initiatives for new students and their families)
- School events and parties (including but not limited to the Fete de l'Ecole)
- School image campaigns (sweatshirts, etc.)

Current/upcoming **activities**:

- Working with the comite des eleves (CDE) on improving indoor campus spaces where students can spend their free time positively (notably cafeterias)
- Working with the school administration and the CDE on improving outdoor campus spaces, notably playgrounds and seating (benches, picnic benches, etc.)
- Working with the family of Francis Pirotta, our young student who sadly passed away in May 2018, and with teaching staff, on developing and finding financial support for appropriate projects in his memory
- In 2018, piloting welcome activities in the first days of September to better orient new families, with planning for the 2019 rentree and activities during the school year under way
- Supporting the Eurosport request for financing to send a winning EEB1 team to Varese, Italy in a biannual competition our school has participated in since 1974
- Planning with the CDE to hold a sweatshirt sale in early 2019 (where the CDE primarily covers the secondary/student sales market and the CBWG/APEEE covers the parents/parents of primary students market) and pilot an online ordering system

- Working with the pedagogical committee to promote science initiatives that have an environmental sustainability orientation

Members of the APEEE CBWG may be any school parent. Current members include Gregorio Davila-Diaz and Samantha Chaitkin (coordinators), Eduardo Lanza Saiz, Cristina Morte, Anne-Marie Hammer, Ramon Lopez-Sanchez, Andre de Woot, Kathryn Mathe, Dominique Nils, Dietrich Rometsch, Belen Hurtado de Llera, Kriszta Szabo. These persons and their working partners may represent the CBWG in meetings and communication in their area of activity. CBWG members will communicate primarily by e-mail, as needed, and may call face to face meetings.