

CBWG (Community Building Working Group)

The EEB1 APEEE Community Building Working Group was founded in 2015 as an organ of the APEEE that examines and enables initiatives to 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 behaviors exhibited by students (including for example vandalism, harassment, addictions).

The APEEE’s CBWG enables 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 may accept or initiate meetings with members of the extended school community (including but not limited to student representatives and activists; school teachers and other staff members and decision makers; staff members 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 2020, **seven areas** fall under the scope of CBWG activities:

1. Solidarity and charitable actions
2. Green school and sustainability
3. Free time / free spaces (FT/FS) and related school logistics and infrastructure
4. School events and parties (including but not limited to the Fete de l’Ecole)
5. School image campaigns (sweatshirts, newsflash, etc.)
6. Outreach:
 - Welcome initiatives for new students and their families
 - Teacher appreciation
 - Student Committee liaison
7. Community-member driven projects involving a community building objective (e.g. Student Values Workshops – with Bien Etre group; Francis Pirotta Creative Arts Prize; Climate Neutral European School; ES School Events – EUROSPORT, MunUccle, etc.)

Method:

The group meets at least 3-4 times a year in order to coordinate activities. Most communication take place via email, though face-to-face meetings of subgroups or initiatives can also be organised. Members may represent the CBWG and APEEE in meetings and communications in their area of activity.

The group should report back to the Board at least twice a year or when a major campaign, initiative or event is planned.

Members:

- Samantha Chaitkin - CdE liaison, Sweatshirts, FT/FS, general
- Sara Dagostini - FT/FS
- Gregorio Davila Diaz - Solidarity
- Andre de Woot - Fete
- Andrea Hummel **coordinator**
- Belen Hurtado - general
- Ramon Alejo Lopez Sanchez - Outreach
- Patryk Malesa - Fete
- Alejandro Martinez Turegano - Fete
- Kathryn Mathe - CdE Liaison, Outreach, FT/FS, general
- Cristina Morte - Values Workshops (with Bien Etre WG)
- Veronica Ortiz - FT/FS
- Dietrich Rometsch – Green School
- Emese Savoia-Keleti - FT/FS
- Kriszta Szabo - FT/FS

Honorary members: Fabio Pirota, Kristina Smite - Francis Pirota Prize

Activities 2019:

In 2019, much of the APEEE's Community Building efforts were spent on furthering relationships with various components of school life.

- **Welcome:** To start the year off, new-family materials and a welcome committee were present at the orientation day, to help new students feel more at home in our school community. The CBWG also organised visits to primary classes during class meetings.
- **Teacher Appreciation:** The CBWG worked closely with the school direction to organise a coffee cart and personally deliver croissants and coffee/tea to the school's primary and secondary classes.
- **CdE:** A strong relationship has been established over the years with the annual presidents and vice-presidents of the Students' Committee: the patterns of exchange and trust have been fertile ground for concrete collaboration. Examples of this include the hosting of the CdE funds in the APEEE accounts from February 2019 on, and of course the joint CdE-School-APEEE investment in a new, safer and more comfortable surface for the football pitch in the middle of the campus, summer 2019. Together, we discussed and improved the S123 Caf alongside the S4-S7 Caf, in a balanced way, using CdE funds. The CBWG is also the source of parent volunteers for students-run discos and other initiatives.
- **Free Time & Free Spaces:** Indeed many of the relationships maintained over the years focused on Community Building's leading campaign, to improve free-time and free-time spaces. Overcrowding at our school makes it especially important to offer better options to students who are not in class, so they can make the most of their time at school and

stay out of trouble. This is equally true for the long and short "récré" enjoyed by Nursery and Primary pupils, who benefited from new markings on the playground following our discussions with teaching staff and the school administrator, as well as picnic benches in the Fabiola courtyard.

- **Funding Support:** Community Building also played a central role in defining and implementing the APEEE's new system of project grants for the school community, alongside the CdE, the school administration, and the Bien-Être and Pedagogical working groups. Key programmes included the financing of new EuroSport uniforms and equipment (January 2019); to contribute to the MunUccle project (June 2019); and money and awareness raising for the school's new LGBTQ group (December 2019).
- **Green School:** Community Building members worked as part of the school's Green School working group to foster environmentally-friendly initiatives. After the APEEE awarded funding to the Climate Neutral European School project, a Green School Round Table was organised to bring stakeholders together to discuss and prioritise green initiatives.

Current/upcoming activities:

- **Free Time /Free Space (FT/FS):** Working with the Student Committee (CdE) and the management on improving indoor and outdoor campus spaces where students can spend their free time positively; working to create an eco-friendly and healthy environment for pupils
- **Green School Initiatives:** Funding and promoting initiatives that have an environmental orientation and teach kids about sustainable living
- **Francis Pirotta Creative Arts Prize:** Working with the family of Francis Pirotta and the Primary Teaching Team to continue to honour young Francis, who sadly passed away in May 2018, with an annual primary class-project art competition and award
- **Values Project:** Continuing to work with the APEEE Bien Etre WG to host talks for teens across the secondary on relevant topics for today's youth
- **Outreach:** Welcome activities in the first days of September to better orient new families and greet returning families; teacher appreciation activities
- **Primary Sweatshirt Sales:** Piloting online ordering system for primary school sweatshirts
- **School Events Publicity:** Collaborating with the APEEE Communication Team to publicise activities undertaken by the school in the APEEE Newsflash

- **Support for Projects/Initiatives:** Contributing to APEEE Project Funding Calls by vetting proposed projects and serving on award panel; help oversee key community building project implementation
- **Fete:** Coordinating parent contributions to the Fete (e.g. Food, Sport and other activities) through the Fete Committee