

APEK NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION

A New School Year, A New Momentum

This new school year marks a new step for the LFIK. With the arrival of **Mr. Lena**, our new Head of School, the school is embracing a new dynamic while building on the work carried out over the past few years by his predecessors.

On a daily basis, the APEK Management Committee, together with him and the educational teams, is continuing to work on several important areas: **strengthening student safety and well-being, developing the educational pathways offered, and deepening the school's ties with its surrounding community.**

In this newsletter, we would like to update you on these different areas and on our actions, with one simple objective: **to help you better understand what is being built today to prepare the school for tomorrow.**



Ongoing Projects



Student Safety and Well-being



Student safety and well-being remain a priority for LFIK. The arrival of Ms. Romane Avignon, our school nurse, last school year has strengthened the support provided to students on a daily basis. This year, the arrival of Mr. Lena, our new Head of School, continues this approach. Several actions are currently underway or being strengthened:

- **Improved monitoring of entries and exits:** records of people entering and leaving the school premises are being strengthened in order to ensure a safe environment for students.
- **A smoke-free and mobile-phone-free environment:** these rules help maintain an environment suited to students and learning.
- **Clean and orderly premises:** cleaning, hygiene, maintenance and the organization of spaces are receiving particular attention.
- **Infrastructure monitoring:** the Management Committee is committed to maintaining and improving the school building and gymnasium. Several actions have already been initiated: discussions with the City to clarify responsibilities for school maintenance, requests for quotations for specific equipment and, more specifically for the gymnasium, consideration of a complete renovation and transformation project, with the ambition of eventually making it a showcase for LFIK.



A School Evolving to Serve Students and Families



Several initiatives are being undertaken this year to make everyday life easier for families, develop the educational pathways offered to students and strengthen LFIK's openness to its wider community:

- **Transport assistance:** all students from the age of 6 through their final year of high school can benefit from reduced fares on public transportation. To obtain the certificate, please contact the LFIK school office at secretariat@lfiikyoto.org.
- **Broader communication for greater visibility of LFIK:** LFIK is expanding its presence on OVNI and Zoom in order to reach beyond its usual networks and raise awareness of the school.
- **Enhanced language pathways:** the Japanese pathway is taking a new step forward with the creation, this year, of the Japanese International Section in elementary school, together with English and Japanese EMILE programmes (teaching a subject through a foreign language, for example music taught in Japanese). This pathway is intended to be extended to secondary school in the coming years, with the long-term objective of enabling students to access the French International Baccalaureate, Japanese section. The English pathway also remains at the heart of this approach, with demanding teaching aimed at giving our children as many opportunities as possible. Read below, in our interview section, Ms. Marie Doco's perspective on language education.



Rooting LFIK in its local community



On Sunday, October 11th, from 8:30 a.m., LFIK will host Undōkai, the Yurin neighbourhood's sports festival, in the school courtyard. The day will begin with an opening procession and continue until mid-afternoon, with around ten individual and team events.

You don't have to be a great athlete! The events are simple, fun and accessible to everyone, young and old. The aim above all is to have fun, enjoy the day together and represent the LFIK team. From kindergarten children to seniors, with events also open to participants over 65, everyone can find their place: take part in an event, cheer on the athletes or simply enjoy the atmosphere.

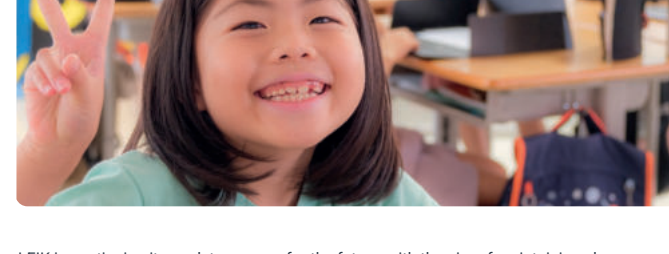
This day, organized by the various neighbourhood associations, is the result of a great deal of collective preparation and organization. It is above all a wonderful opportunity to meet, laugh and connect across generations, languages and usual neighbourhood circles.

For LFIK families, this is a valuable opportunity to discover our neighbourhood and its residents in a different way, and to strengthen the ties that connect us.

So come and share the day with your neighbours, cheer on the participants and, above all, come and take part in the events. **Sign up now HERE.**



Building LFIK's future



LFIK is continuing its work to prepare for the future, with the aim of maintaining close support from French institutions.

- **The AEFE agreement renewed and signed this summer:** this step enables LFIK to continue the work undertaken with AEFE, remain part of the network of schools under agreement, and benefit from an AEFE-seconded Head of School, Mr. Lena.
- **This relationship with AEFE also helps secure the continued support of the French institutions assisting us with the school's projects and development.** As a result, it strengthens LFIK's position with the Japanese municipal and prefectural authorities with whom we work on a daily basis to secure the school's lease, obtain full use of the available premises, and gain access to potential sites for the Osaka branch project (six sites have currently been identified, with more detailed visits to come).
- **A development process built step by step:** this project is part of a broader reflection on LFIK's future, its development and its roots in Japan, while maintaining its links with the French education network.



A Look at the School : A Testimonial from Ms. Marie Doco, English, Social and Economic Sciences and EMILE teacher at LFIK, as well as Educational Coordinator for Languages and Personal Guidance and Careers Advisor (PRIO)



My name is **Marie Doco**, and I joined the **French International School Kyoto (LFIK)** in 2022, after spending ten years at the **Lycée Français Alexandre Yersin** in Hanoi. I teach **English, Economics and Social Sciences (SES)**, as well as **CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning)**. I am also the **pedagogical coordinator for the Languages Department and the school's Information and Guidance Coordinator (PRIO)**.

However, my career path was far from straightforward. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Luxembourg, taught in English, followed by a Master's degree in Sociology and then a teaching qualification for French schools abroad. I eventually became a teacher as opportunities arose along the way. That is why I often tell my students: **"Learn to create opportunities, learn to recognise them, and learn to seize them."**

When I arrived in Kyoto, my mission was to develop a clear vision for our language pathways, particularly by expanding CLIL and strengthening our English and Japanese programmes. Today, we are taking another step forward with the introduction of the Japanese International Section in primary school this year, while already looking ahead to what comes next.



For me, the most important thing is that each family thinks about the project they have for their child

Do we plan to stay in Japan for a few years? Are we considering higher education in France, Japan or another country? **The choice of pathway should be considered in light of this project, as well as each student's abilities, interests and motivation.**

And above all, not being in the Japanese International Section does not mean giving up Japanese. All students continue to learn and practise the language, particularly through Japanese EMILE, and there are other opportunities to deepen their learning.

The goal is therefore not to put students into boxes, but to build the pathway that best suits each family.

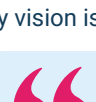
The Japanese International Section offers an additional opportunity, but it also requires a significant commitment. It is not necessarily suited to every project. What matters is knowing where you want to go and gradually building the path to get there.

Similarly, the aim of the English pathway is to build a solid level of English, together with cultural and literary openness, enabling students to prepare for the language certifications they may need to access programmes and universities in Japan and English-speaking countries.

For me, languages are a real asset in differentiating LFIK from international schools and opening up new opportunities for students. LFIK gives students access to French higher education, but we must also continue to open the doors to Japanese and international universities. This is the purpose of my work as Language Coordinator and PRIO: **to give students as many opportunities as possible for their future.**

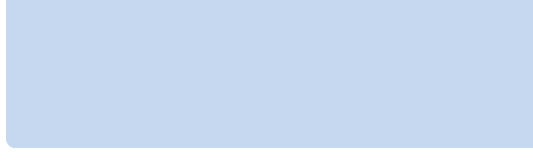
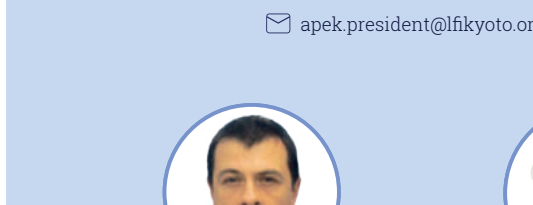
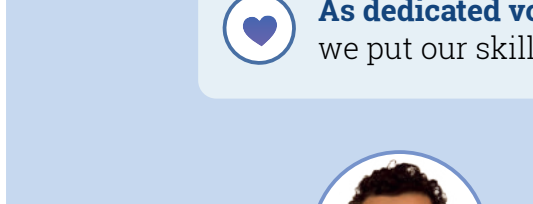
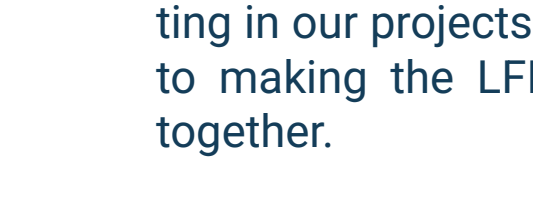
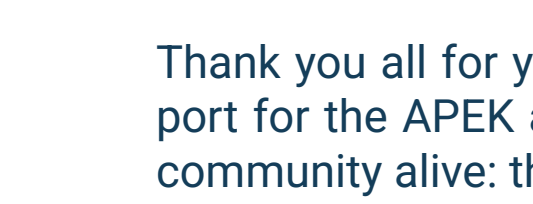
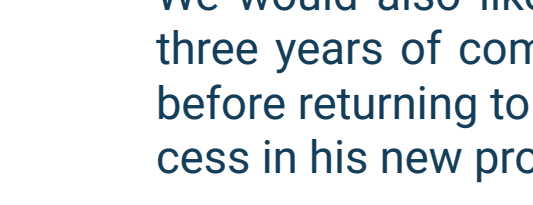
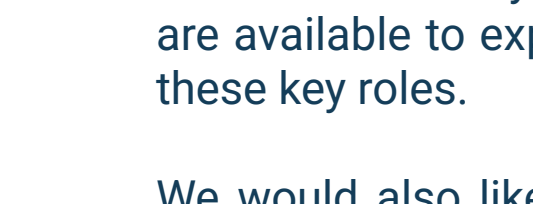
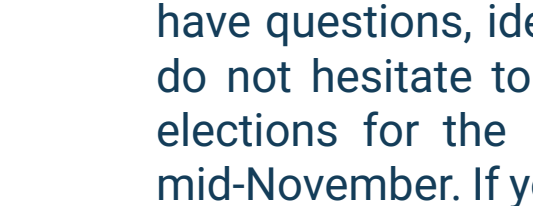
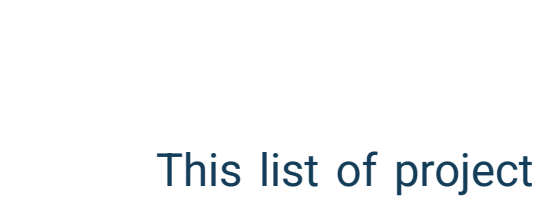
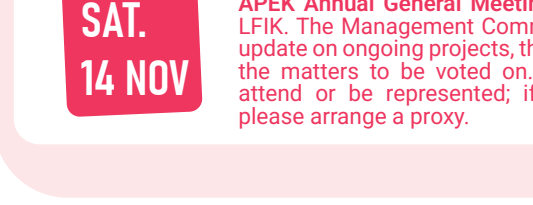
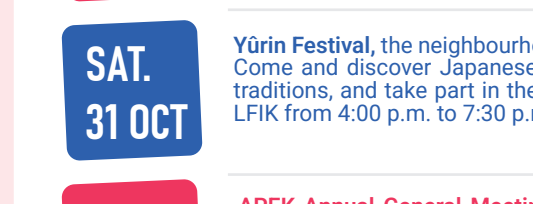
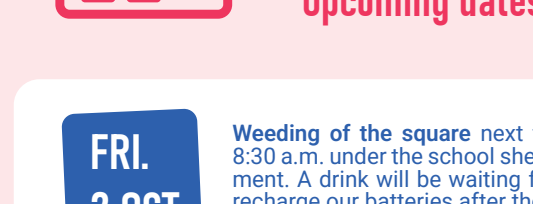
Above all, I want what we are building today to be sustainable, with solid foundations that will enable every student to find their own path and keep as many options open as possible.

My vision is simple:



To give our students as many opportunities as possible and open as many doors as possible.

— Marie DOCO



Save the date!

Upcoming dates you won't want to miss

- FRI. 2 OCT** Weeding of the square next to LFIK. Meet from 8:30 a.m. under the school shelter to collect equipment. A drink will be waiting for us afterwards to recharge our batteries after the effort!
- SUN. 11 OCT** **Undōkai, the neighbourhood sports festival.** Sign up now and come and take part, or simply come and enjoy the atmosphere. At LFIK from 8:30 a.m. until mid-afternoon. In case of rain, the Undōkai will be postponed to Monday, October 12.
- SAT. 31 OCT** **Yurin Festival, the neighbourhood's major festival.** Come and discover Japanese performances and traditions, and take part in the community fair. At LFIK from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- SAT. 14 NOV** **APEK Annual General Meeting, from 9:00 a.m. at LFIK.** The Management Committee will present an update on ongoing projects, the financial report and the matters to be voted on. Every family should attend or be represented; if you cannot attend, please arrange a proxy.

Call to the community, we need you!

Neighbourhood Sports Festival – Sunday, October 11th: Participants wanted

In case of high temperatures, tents will be set up in the courtyard to provide some shade. If you are coming to enjoy the festivities, please feel free to give us a hand setting them up at the beginning and putting them away at the end of the activities.



I'm joining the volunteer team

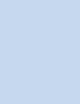
This list of projects is only a glimpse of our actions. If you have questions, ideas, or simply wish to lend a hand, please do not hesitate to come meet us. Join the adventure! The elections for the Management Committee will take place mid-November. If you would like to become more involved, we are available to explain our daily work and the challenges of these key roles.

We would also like to sincerely thank **Romain Rallu** for his three years of commitment to the Management Committee before returning to Sydney, Australia. We wish him every success in his new projects.

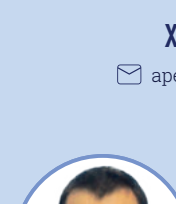
Thank you all for your commitment and your continued support for the APEK and the LFIK. Your involvement keeps our community alive: thank you for following our news, participating in our projects, and contributing - each in your own way - to making the LFIK a wonderful place to learn and grow together.

The Management Committee

The Management Committee of **APEK** is at your service all year round



As dedicated volunteers who are committed to serving you, we put our skills and energy to work for the entire LFIK community.



President
Xavier CARCELLE
apek.president@lfiikyoto.org



Treasurer
Federico ZYLBERLAJT
tresorier@lfiikyoto.org



Secretary
Kae DEBAYLES-OKI
secretaire@lfiikyoto.org



Grégory PURET
gpuret@lfiikyoto.org



Agnès CATTELAN
acattel@lfiikyoto.org



Glen BEDJANIAN
gbedjanian@lfiikyoto.org



Julien BOGAERS
jbogars@lfiikyoto.org