

Kanétskare Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Kanétskare School: Mascot and Logo Voting Process – May 28th, 2024

We are excited to update you on the selection of our new school mascot and logo. Today, all students were shown a presentation explaining why we could not choose the coyote and introducing five new mascot options. Students will have the opportunity to vote on these options this week.

Background

In the 2021-2022 school year, we began renaming the school due to concerns about Egerton Ryerson, our former namesake, and his role in Canada's residential schools. The name change followed an Indigenous-informed process, emphasizing ethical engagement and consultation with local Indigenous communities in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

In the 2022-2023 school year, we became Kanétskare Middle School, meaning "School by the Bay." Students voted for blue and orange as our school colors and selected the coyote as our mascot. However, the coyote was not approved by the City of Hamilton, Indigenous Education Council, and Beads of Circle due to concerns about cultural appropriation and its negative connotations.

Current Status

During the 2023-2024 school year, discussions with the board and Indigenous Education Council focused on ensuring our mascot and logo choices respect cultural significance and avoid appropriation. Consequently, we restarted the selection process. The Indigenous Education Council provided five new mascot/logo options, reflecting our school's connection to water, which symbolizes life.

New Mascot/Logo Options

- **Riptides** – There are some Riptides in the area and has affiliation with the water, respect for nature and wisdom.
- **Storm** – Cleanse the earth, bring renewal and maintain balance. Can be a metaphor for strength and resilience.
- **Lightning** – Connection between the sky and earth, interconnectedness of all elements of nature. Symbolize power, speed and agility, ability to strike with precision.
- **Lakers** – Proximity to the Lake and central to the way of life.
- **Rapids** – Fast flowing bodies of water, natural beauty, power.

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Voting and Next Steps

Students will vote on the new mascot/logo this week. We will announce the chosen mascot/logo during the week of June 3rd. Following this, we will hold a contest for students to design the new mascot/logo. The final design will be approved by the Superintendent of Student Achievement and converted into our official mascot/logo by the HWDSB Web/Graphic Designer, to be used starting September 1st, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Thank you,

Joanne Hall
Principal, Kanétskare Middle School