

# Happy Valley mascot news

## Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hych' ka Kleco Kleco, Maarsii, Thank you all for reading this update. This year, our school based equity team has explored replacing our current mascot, the Tiger, with a mascot that is more locally connected and reflective of our school culture. We recognize that many past and present students, staff, and families have a strong connection to the Tiger, and we honour the memories and traditions it represents. As we look ahead, we hope our community will embrace this opportunity to create new traditions and a shared sense of identity that reflects who we are today.

## Project Timeline

### Step 1

Starting point: What qualities define our school community?

### Step 2

Survey: "Kids at Happy Valley are:..." top answers included playful, brave, kind, and creative

### Step 3

Students and staff voted for their top animal from a shortlist of 5

Three animals were clear favorites:

- Orca
- Otter
- Falcon

Orca was the overall winner, but it was a close race!

### Step 4

Our school sought feedback on how to proceed from the Indigenous Education Council (Elder Circle) in their role as knowledge-keepers and guides.

## Elder's Circle June 1, 2026

Two members of our equity team presented our project on June 1.

The 6 elders in attendance shared many powerful stories, connections to traditional knowledge, and reasons to choose each respective animal.

Ultimately, after discussion, the Elders advised us to "let the children decide" by honoring the results of our school-wide vote.

This means our new mascot will be ORCA.

## Next Steps

An Indigenous artist will design the new logo for the school. (tentative completion Dec 2026)

Once the logo is finished:

- the newsletter will be renamed,
- the website will be refreshed,
- other exciting events to support the transition from tiger to orca will occur.

