The New Lakefield District Public School (LDPS) will provide our students with some of the most unique opportunities across the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. Our trilingual (Ojibway, French and English) JK-8 school will include a high school size gym, multi-purpose room, modern learning commons library, and enhanced music, science and technology spaces among its many attributes. Housed on a 19-acre site – the largest elementary school property in KPR – LDPS offers a spacious yard, with a track, large field and a variety of play areas for students. The school will also include licensed child care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and a child and family centre with early years programming.

Starting the New Year in Our New School!

We’re very pleased to share that the first day of school in our new building will be January 8, 2018! Our contractor, Steelcore, has confirmed that we will be able to begin moving into our new school during December. Once we have occupancy of the building, following numerous inspections by fire and building officials, there will be lots of work happening to continue preparing the school for students. This includes cleaning, waxing floors, installing SmartBoards and other technology, unpacking and preparing classrooms.

Moving in at the beginning of January will provide time for the work mentioned above to take place, and will allow us to take advantage of the natural break over the holidays. Over the coming weeks, we will focus on making the transition as smooth as possible for students, particularly those with special needs, to help ensure they have a positive start in January.

While the school will be open to students on January 8, it is important to note that there will still be a few outstanding items that we will continue to work on over the following weeks. Work will be ongoing in some areas, such as the kitchen, and outdoor spaces. Our new electronic sign is on order, and will be installed shortly after our opening day. Our focus is on ensuring the school is operational and safe for students and staff, and we will continue to work diligently on outstanding items.

For safety reasons, we ask that parents and students not visit our new school site before January 8 because of the ongoing work that will be taking place. Families will be invited to an Open House in January, and an official opening celebration with local dignitaries and stakeholders will take place in the spring. Thank you, everyone, for your ongoing support and patience during this large project! We believe the new facilities and opportunities for students will be amongst the best in our school board!
New School Colours and Mascot!

Over the last few months, students have had a lot of fun participating in a process for selecting our new school colours and mascot, while building community at the same time.

The Transition Team, which includes students, parents and community members representing all of the feeder schools, decided that decisions about “branding”, including colours and mascots choices, should be student driven. We agreed that all students deserved a voice and that their choice would be respected.

We have students who come to us from different schools, and at different stages: in Year Two of Kindergarten for French Immersion; in Grade 4 from Curve Lake; and in Grade 7 from Buckhorn PS. All of these students leave behind their first school to come here to join us, and they loved having a voice in this process. The students put forward many great ideas and then we narrowed down the options to the two mascots that were the most popular – the tiger and the wolf. We also identified the most popular colour combinations (blue and white or black and yellow/gold) and we asked students to vote for their favourite choice.

Here was the vote breakdown:

- 74% of students voted for the WOLF and BLUE and WHITE colours
- 16% of students voted for the TIGER and BLACK and GOLD/YELLOW colours
- 8% of the students voted for the WOLF and BLACK and GOLD/YELLOW colours
- 3% of the students voted for the TIGER and BLUE and WHITE colours

As you can see, the students voted overwhelmingly for the Wolf to be our mascot and Blue and White to be the school colours. The local Catholic school also has a wolf as its mascot, which is great since we are all members of the same community. Their colours are burgundy and grey – so it will be clear that we are from different schools.

Students were then asked to submit design ideas for the mascot and logo. We received many student submissions with excellent ideas. We have provided a selection of the most common ideas and themes to an artist in the community who has offered to help us take these wonderful student ideas and turn them into a professional computerized design. Thank you to Sheila Potter for her offer to help.

The final design will be unveiled to students, staff and community in the coming weeks, with special mentions of the student artwork that inspired the final design.

When we move into the new school, we will celebrate the history of those who have graduated through the Lakefield family of schools with a Wall of Honour. This Wall of Honour will include past Lakefield Wall of Honour recipients, as well as have space for future recipients. In this way, there will always be a legacy of tigers at Lakefield District Public School.

Staying Connected

For progress updates and pictures of the new school, please visit the new Lakefield DPS page on the school board website www.kprschools.ca or search #thenewLDPS on Twitter.