

The OCSBOA Digest

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

MILKA ZLOMISLIC

Dear Friends and Colleagues in Catholic Education, As we settle into the current school year, I want to take a moment to offer my deepest gratitude to Khaled Elgharbawy, our Past President, for his exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication to OCSBOA, and tireless efforts over the last two years to elevate the association and expand its reach. His commitment has truly made a difference. I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to Brian Capovilla for stepping into the role of Vice-President, and for his invaluable contributions as a Director. I am equally grateful to all of our Directors for their continued dedication and hard work on behalf of OCSBOA. My sincerest gratitude also goes out to the engines behind OCSBOA, Executive Director Peter Marchini and our administrator Lesley McDowell, both of whose work is invaluable.

At this time of year, as Catholic business officials across the province, we are reminded of the profound meaning of Christmas. This is a season where we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ—God's ultimate gift of love, the Prince of Peace who entered our world to offer us hope, redemption, and salvation. The true message of Christmas calls us to find purpose, peace, and joy in our world. It is a time to remember the words of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Christmas is not only a time to celebrate, but also a time to reflect. As we journey through this Advent season, let us take a moment to give thanks for the countless blessings in our lives—both seen and unseen—and to recognize the opportunities we have to be a light to others. But let us also remember those who are struggling, those who may not feel the joy and warmth of the Season.

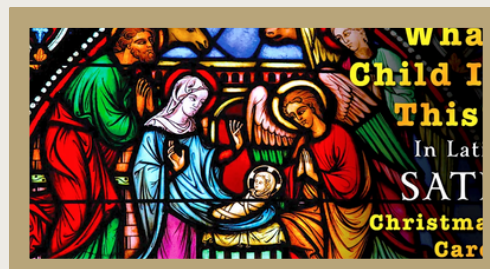
As Catholic school business officials, we are entrusted with the well-being of students and families across the province. I encourage each of us to seek out ways to serve and support those in need—whether within our departments, our schools, or our communities. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who most need our help.

On behalf of the OCSBOA Board of Directors, I wish you and your loved ones a Christmas filled with peace, joy, and renewal. May this sacred season provide you with time to rest, recharge, and reconnect with what truly matters, so that you are ready to continue your important work in service of our students in the new year.

In closing, I leave you with a song to celebrate the season:

Milka

<https://vimeo.com/784067059>



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There will be an adjustment to our membership fees, which will take effect on January 1, 2025. This decision was not made lightly, as we deeply value the trust and commitment you place in us. However, after years without a fee increase, this change is necessary to ensure we continue to provide the quality services, programs, and resources you've come to expect.

We remain committed to delivering value to our members and growing together as a community. Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work to make OCSBOA better for everyone.

As of January 2025 the new OCSBOA yearly fee will be \$250.00 (inclusive of HST)

2025 Board of Directors

President - Milka Zlomislic

Vice President- Brian Capovilla

Past President-Khaled Elgharbawy

Executive Director-Peter Marchini

Directors

Kevin Sun

Betty Stavropoulos

Vince Artuso

Kerry Pomfret

Jason Attard

Rosalia Betti

Roger Mabardi



*Glory to God in the highest! Wishing
you a Christmas filled with grace and
joy in Christ*

2024 OCSBOA CONFERENCE

The recent Conference was a resounding success, bringing together industry leaders, experts, and passionate participants from around the province. Over the course of two days, attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions, inspiring keynote addresses, and impactful workshops that sparked innovative ideas and fostered meaningful connections.

The conference provided a dynamic platform for learning, networking, and growth. Here, we present the key highlights and takeaways from this exceptional event, showcasing the moments that made it truly unforgettable.

Jean-Francois Carrey

This year's keynote address was delivered by none other than Jean-François Carrey, an adventurer, entrepreneur, and motivational leader renowned for his record-breaking achievements and transformative insights. Carrey, the youngest Canadian to summit Mount Everest, captivated the audience with his journey of resilience, vision, and leadership.

Jean-François left attendees energized and equipped to tackle their own 'Everests,' with a clear call to action: to lead with purpose and passion in everything we do.

Artificial Intelligence

In an era where AI is reshaping education, learners and educators alike face unprecedented opportunities and challenges. Our recent session, "Navigating Learning in the Age of AI," explored how AI tools can personalize learning, foster creativity, and bridge gaps in accessibility.

Key takeaways included the importance of balancing technology with critical thinking, ethical considerations in AI use, and the need for continuous adaptation. As we embrace AI's potential, one thing is clear: the human element remains at the heart of meaningful education.

Human Resources-Challenges and Solutions

Several presentations addressed a critical topic: managing employee attendance issues in the education sector. Experts shared actionable strategies, including fostering supportive work environments, implementing clear attendance policies, and utilizing data-driven approaches to identify and address underlying patterns.

A key theme was the importance of proactive communication and building a culture of accountability and trust. Attendees left with practical tools to enhance staff engagement and ensure consistent, reliable support for students.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 OCSBOA CONFERENCE SPONSORS

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors for their invaluable support in making the 2024 conference a remarkable success. Your generosity and commitment were instrumental in bringing our vision to life, fostering meaningful connections, and empowering the exchange of ideas.

Your partnership not only enhanced the experience for all attendees. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey and for your continued dedication to excellence and innovation.



Amazon	Keel, Cotrelle
ASI	McCarthy's Uniforms
Borden, Ladner, Gervais	Moffett & Duncan
Dell Technologies	OSBIE
Ebase	Q-Air
HTS	Pact Engineers
IBM Education Consulting	Paradigm Shift Technologies
iSYS	Pre-Eng
Investigative Risk Management	RTOERO
SBCI	THANK YOU!

Thank
you!

2025 OCSBOA Conference

The 2025 conference will be held at Queen's Landing in Niagara on the Lake from September 24-26. Look for more information in the New Year!



Christmas Trivia

Relax with your family and friend's this Christmas and play some trivia!

1. IN WHAT YEAR DID CHRISTMAS BECOME A FEDERAL HOLIDAY IN THE CANADA?
2. WHAT TYPE OF TREE IS TRADITIONALLY USED AS A CHRISTMAS TREE IN MOST HOMES?
3. WHAT 1946 FILM WAS ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED A BOX OFFICE FLOP BUT BECAME A CHRISTMAS CLASSIC?
4. WHICH CANADIAN PROVINCE IS THE LARGEST EXPORTER OF CHRISTMAS TREES?
5. IN THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL GOOD KING WENCESLAS, WHAT WAS THE KING LOOKING FOR?
6. WHAT COLOR WERE SANTA CLAUS'S CLOTHES ORIGINALLY BEFORE THEY BECAME RED?
7. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE IN MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET?
8. IN THE MOVIE LOVE ACTUALLY, WHICH CHARACTER FAMOUSLY DECLARES THEIR LOVE USING CUE CARDS?
9. WHICH ACTOR PLAYS SIX DIFFERENT ROLES IN THE 2004 ANIMATED FILM THE POLAR EXPRESS?
10. IN THE 2003 MOVIE ELF, WHAT ARE THE FOUR MAIN FOOD GROUPS ACCORDING TO BUDDY?

Answers will be sent via email!