OCSBOA

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BUSINESS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Dear Colleagues in Catholic education,

As we approach the joyous season of Easter, I am reminded of the profound message of hope and renewal that it brings to our lives. This time of year offers each of us an opportunity to reflect on the blessings we have received and to renew our commitment to the values that guide us in both our personal lives and our professional endeavors.

Easter is a cornerstone of our faith, symbolizing the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of new life. It inspires us to embrace the power of transformation and to remember that, even in the face of challenges, there is always a path forward towards renewal and growth. As members of the Ontario Catholic School Business Officials' Association, we are united not only by our professional goals but also by the shared values that our faith instills in us. These values guide us in our mission to serve our school communities with integrity, compassion, and excellence.

This Easter, let us reflect on the ways we can bring light and hope to those around us, especially in these times when the world needs it most. May we continue to support one another, foster a sense of community, and work towards the betterment of our educational environments with renewed energy and purpose.

I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of each member of our association. Your contributions are essential to the success of our schools and the well-being of our students. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of the young people we serve, guided by the principles of our faith and a commitment to excellence.
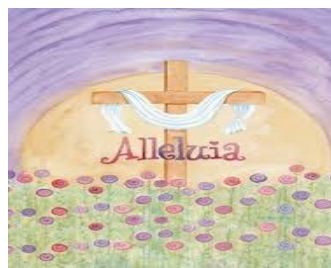
As we celebrate Easter, may you and your loved ones experience the joy and hope that this season brings. May it be a time of rejuvenation for your spirit and an inspiration for your continued efforts in our shared mission.
Wishing you a blessed Easter filled with peace, joy, and the warmth of family and friends.
In faith and service,

Sincerely,

Khaled Elgharbawy

Board of Directors

President: Khaled Elgharbawy • Vice-President: Milka Zlomislic • Past President: Kevin Sun • Executive Director: Peter Marchini
Directors: Kerry Pomfret • Brian Capovilla • Cathy McCabe • Jason Attard • Betty Stavropoulos • Lucy LePera • Vince Artuso •

OCSBOA COMMITTEE REPS

OCSTA	Brian Capovilla
OCSOA	Brian Capovilla
ICE	Khaled Elgharbawy, Peter Marchini
Ministry Liaison	Khaled Elgaharbawy
Human Resources	Cathy McCabe, Kerry Pomfret
CEFO	Brian Capovilla
Conference	All Board Members
Membership	All Board Members
Business Facilities/Planning	Vince Artuso, Jason Attard
Strategic Communications	
ECAB	Betty Stavropoulos

OCSBOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Khaled Elgharbawy, York
Vice-President	Milka Zlomislic, Toronto
Past President	Kevin Sun, Dufferin.Peel
Directors:	Jason Attard, Dufferin-Peel
	Cathy McCabe, Dufferin-Peel
	Brian Capovilla, Wellington
	Kerry Pomfret, Waterloo
	Betty Stavropoulos, Toronto
	Lucy LePera, Toronto
	Vince Artuso, Toronto
Executive-Director	Peter Marchini
	marchinip@sympatico.ca

Early Bird Draw Winner!

Members who submitted membership payments by February 1, 2023 were eligible for the Early Bird Draw! The prize is a $250.00 Visa Gift Card. The winner is:

STEPHANIE STRONG

Congratulations!!

Board of Directors

President: Khaled Elgharbawy • Vice-President: Milka Zlomislic • Past President: Kevin Sun • Executive Director: Peter Marchini
Directors: Kerry Pomfret • Brian Capovilla • Cathy McCabe • Jason Attard • Betty Stavropoulos•Lucy LePera • Vince Artuso •

OCSBOA
ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BUSINESS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Conference and General Meeting 2024
September 25-27, 2024

This year the annual Conference and General Meeting will be held in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario. The venue is White Oaks Conference Centre.

Registration details have been sent out to all members in February. Please join us for another great event.

Conference Information Package

Conference Registration Form

There will be the many opportunities for networking. The Presidents Dinner will feature entertainment by Sound of Harmony DJ Services.

Please join us for this year's event. If you have not received registration information, please contact Peter Marchini at marchinip@sympatico.ca or Lesley McDowell at info.ocsboa@gmail.com.

Board of Directors

President: Khaled Elgharbawy • Vice-President: Milka Zlomislic • Past President: Kevin Sun • Executive Director: Peter Marchini
Directors: Kerry Pomfret • Brian Capovilla • Cathy McCabe • Jason Attard • Betty Stavropoulos • Lucy LePera • Vince Artuso •

Committee Updates

Human Resources Committee Meeting Dates
Currently all meetings are held virtually. Meeting agendas and links will be sent out just prior to meetings.
Please contact Cathy McCabe for more details.

April 19, 2024
May 10, 2024
June 14, 2024

News From Around the Board

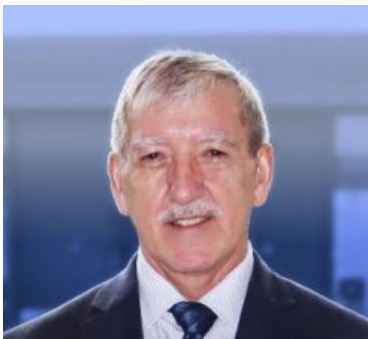## CONSEIL SCOLAIRE CATHOLIQUE PROVIDENCE
Jean Blanchette, new business superintendent for the Csc Providence

Director of Education Carolyn Bastien is pleased to announce Jean Blanchette's appointment as Superintendent of Business for the Conseil scolaire catholique Providence (Csc Providence

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
John De Faveri Return to YCDSB as Interim Director of Education

---

Board of Directors

Tech Tips and Tricks

Lets Talk about Artificial Intelligence!

Artificial Intelligence, or AI for short, is a branch of computer science that focuses on creating systems or machines that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks can range from understanding language, recognizing objects in images, making decisions, or even playing games like chess or Go.

AI systems learn from data. Just like how we learn from our experiences, AI systems learn from the information they're provided. They use algorithms, which are step-by-step instructions, to process this data and make predictions or decisions based on it.

There are different types of AI:

1. **Narrow AI:** Also known as Weak AI, this type of AI is designed for a specific task. For example, your smartphone's voice assistant, like Siri or Google Assistant, is a narrow AI because it's focused on understanding and responding to voice commands.
2. **General AI:** Also known as Strong AI or AGI (Artificial General Intelligence), this type of AI would have human-level intelligence and could perform any intellectual task that a human can do. We haven't achieved this level of AI yet, and it's still a subject of ongoing research and speculation.
3. **Machine Learning:** This is a subset of AI that focuses on enabling machines to learn from data without being explicitly programmed. It's like teaching a computer to recognize patterns and make decisions based on those patterns. For example, machine learning is used in applications like recommendation systems (like those used by Netflix or Amazon), fraud detection, and autonomous vehicles.
4. **Deep Learning:** Deep learning is a type of machine learning that uses artificial neural networks to process and learn from data. These neural networks are inspired by the structure and function of the human brain. Deep learning has shown remarkable success in areas like image and speech recognition.

AI is being used in various fields, including healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment, to automate tasks, improve efficiency, and even make new discoveries.

Learning about AI.

There are many sources of information about AI and using it in your day to day work.

LinkedIn Learning
LinkedIn Learning provides video-based courses taught by industry experts and professionals. LinkedIn Learning provides a convenient and effective platform for individuals looking to acquire new skills, advance their careers, or simply explore areas of interest in a structured and guided manner.

LinkedIn Learning provides, flexible learning ,expert instructors, hands on learning and certificates.

[LinkedIn Learning](#)

Coursera
Coursera aims to democratize education by making high-quality learning resources accessible to individuals worldwide, regardless of their background or location. It has become a popular platform for lifelong learners, professionals seeking to advance their careers, and organizations looking to upskill their workforce.

Coursera offers flexibility, interactive learning, certifications, and a mobile app.

[Coursera](#)

Books:
Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach by Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig: This is a classic textbook used in many AI courses.
Deep Learning by Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, and Aaron Courville: Focuses on deep learning, a subset of AI that has seen significant advancements in recent years.
Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow by Aurélien Géron: A practical guide to machine learning and deep learning with popular Python libraries.

YouTube
There are many free tutorials on AI available on YouTube. Some of the more recent and popular presenters are:
Two Minute Papers: Offers brief summaries of recent AI research papers and breakthroughs.
Everyday AI: Whether you're looking for a ChatGPT podcast, want to learn more about LLMs, discover the future of work with AI, or just learn AI tips and tricks for productivity.

[YouTube](#)

OCSBOA AI Virtual Workshop – May 14th, 2024
Members ONLY!

Join us on May 14th, 2024 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM for our Lunch and Learn session on Artificial Intelligence.
We will have 3 presenters from Deloitte to discuss:

1. **Defining AI**
2. **Evolving regulatory landscape around AI**
3. **Benefits and risks of AI**
4. **AI governance**
5. **Trustworthy AI framework (including insight into what is a trustworthy AI system)**

Please go to the link below to see more information on this event.

AI Workshop Information

Please note that you must be a member in good standing to attend this event

Membership Form

How to Write a Better Email

Communication often hinges on the efficiency and clarity of our messages so mastering the art of writing effective emails has become paramount. With overflowing inboxes and short attention spans, it's essential to employ strategies that not only grab attention but also convey your message succinctly and persuasively. In this article, we'll explore techniques and best practices to help you elevate your email writing skills, ensuring your messages resonate with recipients and yield the desired results.

Starting an email with a reason that is important to the reader is crucial for capturing their attention and engaging them from the outset. By immediately addressing their interests, concerns, or needs, you demonstrate empathy and understanding, establishing a connection that encourages them to continue reading. Don't leave this information till the end of the email, they may not get that far in your email! Ultimately, starting an email with a reason important to the reader sets the stage for a more meaningful and productive interaction.

In crafting effective emails, providing context around facts is paramount as it adds depth and clarity to the information being conveyed. While facts alone may hold significance, without proper context, their relevance and implications can be lost or misinterpreted by the recipient. Contextualizing facts helps recipients understand the why behind the information, offering insights into the broader picture or circumstances surrounding a particular issue. This additional layer of understanding aids in comprehension and fosters credibility, as it demonstrates commitment to providing comprehensive information. Moreover, contextualizing facts enables recipients to make more informed decisions and take appropriate actions In email communication, providing context around facts is like the mortar around your bricks of information, they are essential for ensuring clarity, accuracy, and effective decision-making.

It is important to respond to emails sent to you as strategic approach to encouraging reciprocation. When you acknowledge and reply to emails in a timely manner, you signal to the sender that their communication

is valued and that you are engaged in the conversation. This increases the likelihood of receiving timely responses to your own emails in return. By being responsive, you cultivate a reputation for reliability and professionalism. Ultimately, by prioritizing responsiveness to emails, you create a positive cycle of communication where mutual responsiveness becomes the norm.

Mastering the art of effective email communication is a cornerstone of success in today's digital age. By implementing the strategies and best practices outlined in this article, you can transform your email correspondence into a powerful tool for productivity and collaboration. Connection to the reader, context, and responsiveness are key elements that elevate the impact of your messages By adopting these techniques you will find that writing compelling and effective emails becomes second nature.

Bill 124

In 2019 the Ontario government announced a bill, Bill 124, to cap salary increases for public sector workers to one per cent a year for three years. An Ontario court has declared it unconstitutional ruling that it infringes on the workers' rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

OBSCU has negotiated a retroactive increase for education workers as a result of its agreement with the province.

OSBCU says the deal would retroactively compensate education workers with 0.75 per cent increases for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. It would also include an amount between 1.5 per cent and 3.25 per cent for 2021-2022, which will be determined by an arbitrator.

The union says wage rates in the 2022-2026 collective agreements will also be increased and wage hikes will be pensionable.

OECTA and government have agreed to an additional 0.75 per cent in each of the first two years of their previous contract and they were awarded an additional 2.75 per cent for the third year, amounts that are on top of the one per cent raises each year that were part of the previous contract under Bill 124.

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2023-2024

Online Membership Form

NEW MEMBER ❑   RENEWAL ❑

PERSONAL DATA:

Name	
Title	
Board	
Address	
City	
Postal Code	
Telephone	
E-mail	

COMMITTEE INTEREST:
The Board of Directors has developed a new committee structure in order to meet the needs of Catholic School Business Officials. Typically, committees meet approximately four (4) - six (6) times a year:

MMITTEE	√
***Membership Services** – this committee will develop services that can be provided to members to enhance value of OCSBOA for all members: some examples include workshops, seminars, communications*	
***Conference** – this committee will develop the conference program for 2020 and will aim to provide current and relevant topics to members at the conference*	
***Facility & Planning**-this committee will provide a forum to address items specific to Catholic boards. This committee will facilitate collaborative sharing of our collective expertise and knowledge with our colleagues while ensuring the perspective of Catholic Education is paramount.*	
***Human Resources** – this committee will provide a wide range of consultative services to OCSBOA members in the areas of negotiations, benefits, arbitrations, contract language, Health & Safety, etc.*	
***Communication** – this committee will meet 3 or 4 times a year to share ideas and develop best practices for communication within the context of publicly-funded Catholic education*	
***Board of Directors** – chart the future of OCSBOA by participation as a Director*	

Membership Fee 2022-23 (September to August): $210.00 ($185.85 + $24.15 HST)
Please make cheque payable to *Ontario Catholic School Business Officials' Association*
and return this form with your fee. You can email it to: marchinip@sympatico.ca

Signature _____   **Date** _____

Board of Directors