

Independent and Private School Forum

Supporting educational institutions and learning facilities across Canada

lpsf.ca • (905) 977-9091 • info@lpsf.ca

5353 Lakeshore Rd (Unit #36)
Burlington, ON L7L 1C8

Newsletter Date Aug, 2016
Volume 1, Issue 2

The Insider: IPSF E-Bulletin



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Upcoming Events

Next IPSF Meeting

The first Breakfast meeting of the 2016/17 IPSF membership will be held at the end of September 2016. Date TBA, please watch for the email!

A Message from the Director

A full year has passed since the inauguration of the Independent and Private School Forum and much has been learned and accomplished.

We had several meetings with Ministry officials to share with them our concerns regarding the private school sector's relationship with public boards. We also discussed this pertinent issue with the CEO of the Ontario College of Teachers.

Justice Marvin Zuker reviewed several aspects of our respective staff employment contracts, and Mr. Jordan Rakowski, IPSF member, developed and shared a mark calculator able to demonstrate compliance with Growing Success. Mr. James Armstrong reviewed with us the IB program and explained the acceptance process, and Mr. Christian Bayly, IPSF member, discussed the challenges and advantages of teaching online courses. Mr. Alan Wolfish QC, IPSF Executive, addressed specific legal issues raised by various schools and gave short consultation to specific IPSF school members. Mr. Hugh McKeown, IPSF Executive, established a committee to develop our Code of Ethics, which will be provided to our members early in the new academic year.

We embarked on "best practice" presentations, beginning with an exemplary English teacher of Khalsa Community School, also an IPSF member, who described and demonstrated her blended class practice, while Mr. Alfred Abouchar of La Citadelle discussed the evolution of his thriving school, its philosophy, and best practice.

There are several initiatives planned for the 2016-17 academic year, amongst them being possible school accreditation for IPSF members with a North American accrediting agency.

During the year I had the pleasure of visiting numerous private schools in Canada and abroad. It is clear that many of these schools are engaged in genuine efforts to transform their classrooms from traditional to 21st century classrooms. This transition is viewed by many educators as essential to student progress and success. Blended classrooms and classroom configurations which encourage movement and student collaboration are two examples of the 21st century classroom. As well, shifting from assessment of content to assessment of skills is more reflective of the 21st century classroom. IPSF plans to collaboratively review the implications of this shift and support our members in making all appropriate transitions.

As we engage in the exciting and challenging work of educating Ontario students, I am looking forward to another stimulating and fruitful year for all our members.

Ronnie Miller, M.Ed.; Ph.D.
Executive Director



Interesting TED Talks for Teachers

Salman Khan is the founder of the Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org), a not-for-profit organization with the mission of providing a free, world-class education to anyone, anywhere. It now consists of self-paced programming and, with over 1 million unique students per month, is the most-used educational video repository on the Internet .



Prior to the KhanAcademy, Salman was a senior analyst at a hedge fund and had also worked in technology and venture capital. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, an M.Eng and B.Sc. in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT, and a B.Sc. in mathematics from MIT.

In 2011 Salman Khan talks about how and why he created the remarkable **KhanAcademy**, a carefully structured series of educational videos offering complete curricula in math and, now, other subjects. He shows the power of interactive exercises, and calls for teachers to consider flipping the traditional classroom script — give students video lectures to watch at home, and do "homework" in the classroom with the teacher available to help.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM95HHI4gLk>



Ontario College of Teachers

Continuing the theme of using the internet within the classroom, please take a few minutes to view this short video:

<http://www.oct.ca/resources/videos/social-media>

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA FROM ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

This advisory from the Ontario College of Teachers helps to clarify members' responsibilities when using electronic communication or social media so they can govern their conduct and understand what conduct does not meet professional standards

Here is a link to the OCT Professional Advisory document:
<http://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/use-of-electronic-communication-and-social-media>





Online Article Review



September is nearly here, a fresh start to the educational year, a chance to help our students develop new skills to aid learning. An interesting two-part article on “**Memory Instruction**” was published in June 2016, written by Howard Margolis.

Part 1, “Strengthening the Memory of Struggling Learners”

<http://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/strengthening-the-memory-of-struggling-learners-starting-points/education>

Remembering facts and information can be challenging for everyone. Margolis focuses on teaching strategies to help strengthen students’ memories. He mentions Acronyms as useful memory aids.

However, the most important acronym for Margolis is, REMOS. REMOS can be used to cue teachers to use any or all of the five factors of, **R**epetition, **E**laboration, **M**eaning, **O**rganization and **S**pacings

Part 2, “Critical Factors in Helping Struggling Learners to Remember”

<http://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/critical-factors-in-helping-struggling-learners-to-remember/education>

In the second part of his article, Margolis examines in more detail each of the REMOS factors. He explains that the five REMOS factors are easily understood and applied to gain and maintain attention. He also states, “If teachers and parents coordinate their efforts to use the same five REMOS factors to strengthen the same memories, learning and memory, and in some cases generalization, will probably progress more quickly and smoothly.”

The Author



Howard Margolis is editor emeritus of the Reading & Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Difficulties, founding editor of the Journal of Educational & Psychological Consultation, professor emeritus of reading disabilities and special education at Queens College of CUNY, and co-author of "Reading Disabilities: Beating the Odds" and "Negotiating Your Child's IEP: A Step-by-Step Guide." He has a consulting practice in southern New Jersey, outside of Philadelphia, where he consults to schools and families about special education, dyslexia and other reading disabilities

“Children must
be taught
HOW TO THINK,
not what to think.”

Margaret Mead

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*Thoughts for
the Day*

You learn
something every
day if you pay
attention
-Ray LeBlond

Texting becomes the new email, by Dr. Ronnie Miller

“While visiting Shanghai this summer, I came across an interesting article in the Shanghai Daily (June 26, 2016), by Joyce Rosenberg. This article explains the power of texting for business management. As I reflected on it, I realized that it is very relevant to school management. Administrators, who use texting effectively, can sharply reduce their lengthy emails, thus freeing time to pursue their day-to-day work. It is arguable impersonal, but very effective. The young generation of administrators are adapting intuitively as they are digital natives. For the most part, however, those of us who are over the age of fifty must make a conscious effort to acquire these habits....”

Joyce Rosenberg explains.....

More and more, people who want to get in touch with small businesses are using texts or online chats rather than emails or phone calls. Company owners are responding in kind, communicating more on the fly and in short bursts. They’re finding that texting, and online chatting and messaging help them get and give information faster and run their businesses more efficiently.

It’s a shift that began in the past year, several business owners say. And Facebook says the number of messages sent between people and businesses on its Messenger service has doubled to 1 billion a month in the past year.

Attorney Rick Davis spends less time talking on the phone because many clients now text with brief questions. He can dash off a reply rather than engage in the small talk that business phone etiquette often calls for, and says composing a text is faster than writing a wordier email. Davis has followed the lead of clients who preferred to communicate using texts and chat.

“This has been surprising to me, as law is traditionally a more formal industry,” says Davis, who has a solo practice in Leawood, Kansas. There are some downsides: Clients may expect an immediate answer, which isn’t possible if Davis is in a meeting or in court. He doesn’t bill clients for any time he spends texting with them about their cases, similar to his policy of not charging for very short phone calls

Although calls and emails have been the standard methods of business communication, companies need to use the media that customers prefer or risk losing them to other businesses, says Christina Shaw, an owner of Tangible, a marketing company based in Newburgh, New York.

“They have to move into the digital age,” Shaw says. She also finds that representatives for many of her own clients, which are companies, want to communicate through texts. The change can also ease the burden of a small business’ overflowing email inbox.

Some companies are incorporating texting or chatting into their operations. Josh Brown, a breeder of German Shepherd puppies in Anchorage, Alaska, estimates that he and his wife Theresa get 10 times more texts than emails. But the Browns don’t rely only on digital communications in deciding to whom they’ll sell their puppies. “I would rather be on the phone, listening to the nuances,” Brown says.

Texting does offer an easy way to stay in touch with past customers. A woman in New Orleans who bought a puppy from Far North in April keeps the Browns informed about the dog’s progress. “She texts a photo or a video every morning like clockwork,” Brown says. “I respond every day. I love it.”



Did you know?...**The Most Common Email Response is 5 Words**

Lengthy replies no longer apply. After examining 16 billion digital dispatches, a team of researchers from the University of Southern California and Yahoo Labs discovered that age factors into the conciseness of our correspondence. `we found that younger people are more active and send much shorter replies,` says Farshad Kooti, the study`s author and a Ph.D student at USC. `They`re used to having short, fast communication. `The inbox analysis also revealed that emails become increasingly similar in length toward the middle of a thread. It`s when word counts differ dramatically that you know the conversation`s over. Message received

**The Ontario Provincial Report Card Controversy**

Much confusion, with conflicting messages: First, schools received a memo from the MOE directing them to begin using the Ministry report card. Thereafter, a *Globe and Mail* article quoted the Minister of Education reversing this instruction. Currently, there is silence. Dr. Miller reviewed this issue with the Coordinator of private schools, and he confirmed that although no memo has been provided to private schools to the contrary, they do **NOT** have to use the MOE report card at this time.

**IPSF Registration**

The IPSF registration form for the 2016-17 academic year has been placed on our website. School owners and or principals must complete the form ASAP and email it back to our office to remain or become IPSF members. Payment is due on August 31, 2016.

Contact The Editor

If members have articles, news, events or any other ideas to share and be included in our e-bulletin, please send them for consideration to our editor, Ms. Helen Rees, ipsfhelenrees@gmail.com

Please let us know if there are particular topics you would like covered in future bulletins.

Thankyou!!

