

# Divisional PD Day

October 18, 2024

By: Robin Harris

## Morning Session – All Employees

Overall, the feel and vibe in the room was exciting. What a great place to bring together 800+ staff. It was almost standing room only.

With that said, I was disappointed by the keynote speaker, Kevin Lamoureux. Why?

- The use of swearing and foul language was not necessary and distracted from his message.
- The two videos of *O Canada* were particularly loud, at least where I was sitting (back corner). Anyone with a sensitivity to noise would not have liked that.
- I was somewhat surprised that he did not ask, and no one stood for the playing of *O Canada* in either videos.

I don't believe the summary during the 'thank you' to his presentation was necessary. Kevin's message was quite strong; a quick thank you would have been enough.

## Afternoon – Break-Out Session 1: What is Generative AI and what do Educators need to know (Introductory Level)

Speaker: Kirsten Thompson

*In recent years, the field of education has been transformed by the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies. The language model software developed by OpenAI, has revolutionized the way we interact with content, and is poised to make a significant impact on the education landscape. In this session, we will dive into how Artificial Intelligence actually works and explore the potential of AI in education. We will also discuss the potential challenges and ethical considerations associated with using AI in education, and how to address them.*

Also disappointed with this session, perhaps because of the seminars and speakers that I heard at the CSBA meetings in Toronto in early July. Darn. It also didn't help that the fire alarm went off part way through that interrupted the flow of the presentation.

I was hoping (expecting?) to see actual examples of how AI is being used in the classroom and some of the potential pitfalls. Perhaps these were part of the Intermediate level session: "Practical uses of AI".

The speaker mentioned that we would be receiving the 'slide deck' of her presentation. Is this forthcoming?

## **Esports 101—The Ultimate Beginner’s Guide**

Speaker: Nathan Koblun (of Dugald School)

*Welcome to the Ultimate Beginner's Guide to starting an Esports Program at your school! Whether you are an elite gamer or the thought of a non-rotary phone terrifies you, this workshop will hold your hand and offer you the all the tools you need to get esports happening at your school!*

Only three (of five registrants) were in attendance. This allowed myself to ask many questions; perhaps too many!

This was an informative session to hear about many of the logistics of offering Esports to Dugald School. Some 51 students now partake in the after-school program. It was interesting to hear that another school now has an Esports program, with a third school hopefully starting one in the new year.