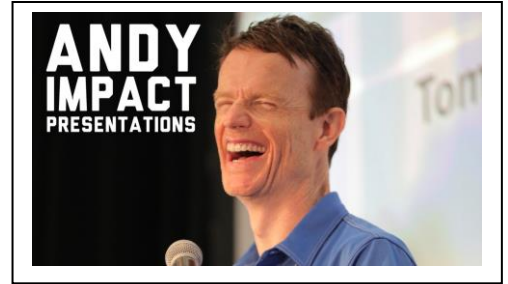


# ANDY THIBODEAU

CREATING ... CARING ... COMMUNITY

London, Ontario

[andypresentations.com](http://andypresentations.com)



## HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

My name is Andy Thibodeau and I am a professional IMPACT speaker specializing in school assemblies, student leadership workshops, Careers Skills Training, and School Staff Appreciation and Inspiration. I am based in my old neighbourhood in London, Ontario.

I was called “Mr. School Spirit” by King’s College at Western university’s magazine when I was named alumni of the year in 2014. This passion for leadership and school spirit started in 8<sup>th</sup> grade when I broke out of my “shell of shyness” and became student council Vice President at my elementary school. This led to becoming student council president at Laurier Secondary in London and the orientation coordinator in university. I am blessed that my enthusiasm to improve youth leadership translated into a full-time career of inspiring students and staff across the continent.

Since 1992 I have delivered thousands of fun inspirational presentations to schools and conferences across North America. It has been a privilege to share my message of “Make Care Contagious” to over two million people in all 10 provinces, the Yukon and 40 US states.

My daughters are 15 and 18, the youngest in grade 10 and my eldest is a high school grad looking to go to university in the fall of 2024 after working for a year. Their mom is teaching Business Computing and French at a London area secondary school. Their insights as a teacher and students are woven into all of my IMPACT programs!

## HOW CAN I HELP YOU IN CREATING CARING COMMUNITY?

My IMPACT assemblies, leadership workshops for students, appreciation and training sessions for staff, and career-preparation programs CAN help you and your community as you look to:

- **Promote Inclusion and Community.**
- **Build School Spirit and enthusiasm for Student Activities.**
- **Deliver Fun, Teambuilding, and Energy to a pep rally, assembly, or retreat.**
- **Encourage Mental Health and Well Being**
- **Complement your messages of Academic Excellence and Effort.**
- **Train your student leaders on creating events and activities that “Make Care Contagious”.**
- **Inspire your Co-Op, Career and Trades classes with Workplace training and deliver the professional hours you need!**
- **Empower students for success at post-secondary school and beyond!**
- **Share Appreciation and Encouragement to your School Staff.**

A detailed review of each assembly is towards the end of this flyer.

## ANDY'S IMPACT ASSEMBLIES

### *Memorable presentations of Laughter, High Energy, School Spirit, and Encouragement.*

- **“Get Your Hand UP!”** Fight the fear of failure and be the student that answers questions, asks questions and volunteers. School is about balancing learning and having fun! Keep your grade 2 “Pick me, Pick me” attitude!
- **“Share your Care”** Care about yourself, your friends, family, and school the same way some people care about their favorite teams or performers. My top 3 examples of care: Show up. Participate. Listen.
- **“Get Your Hand UP GRADS!”** A special grade 12 focused version of my program, focusing on enjoying the final year of school, being an example of leadership for the younger grades, and successfully preparing for life after high school. Perfect for retreats and second semester visits.
- **“Get Your Hand UP” – Workplace Training/Co-Op Focus** A special version of my “Get Your Hand UP” program, with a focus on matching my insights with workplace examples. A fantastic complement to your Co-Op programs in Post-Secondary Preparation, Leadership and Workplace Training.
- **“Initiate Inclusion by Invitation” – Andy’s Three “I’s” of Building Community.** My definition of INCLUSION – “Seeing differences, without seeing the difference.” For 10 months in 2018-19, my family had three young women from Congo live with us until their housing situation was settled. The ongoing experience of being “Uncle Andrew” to new Canadians from Africa is hilarious, powerful, and insightful. This inspiring program offers perspective on the following challenges: How can you initiate inclusion? What limits our courage to invite? How can one maintain enthusiasm for invitation and leadership? Include, invite, and lead by initiating!

ANDY IS ENERGY! You know my assemblies make an IMPACT when I can get the students up at the end of the program and get them to participate with enthusiasm and yell their mascot with pride! Check out these short school spirit clips from 2019-22!

[Andy on YouTube : Dexterity Check with the Falcons of Lake City Secondary in BC](#)

[Andy on YouTube: Dexterity Check with the Blazers of Bayridge SS in Kingston](#)

## ANDY'S IMPACT WORKSHOPS

### *Inspiring Leadership Training that is Educational, Interactive, and Habit Changing.*

- **“Making Care Contagious!”** A powerful program that can run from 1 to 3 hours on improving communication, handling rejection and negativity, and promoting good decisions and involvement!
- **“Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability to Lead Yourself and Others”** Execution of ideas is the number one challenge for young people in organizing themselves and leading others. This session will

immediately improve the ability of the participants to work together and improve their organization skills. For staff & students!

- ***“The Impact of Educators.”*** My hilarious 30 to 60 minute after-school program to inspire and entertain your staff. Also available as a one-to-two-hour Professional Development session!
- ***Co-Op/Workplace Training Workshops Versions of my Presentations “Get Your Hand UP”, “Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability” and “Initiating Inclusion by Invitation”.*** I have created Co-Op class versions of my Leadership Programs, with presentation lengths from 60 minutes to a half day or full day retreat. Complements your Co-Op and Workplace training programs in Organization, Leadership and Time Management. It includes insights from my 9 months at Costco in 2020!

**The most unique quality of my assembly is that your school’s events, activities, and accomplishments are incorporated into the presentation. I will promote upcoming activities while offering recognition and praise for past events. Money spent on my programs can be considered an investment in more successful future activities! Plus, your leadership groups and their advisors will appreciate a speaker that mentions their accomplishments!**

My website has a detailed look at my programs. [www.andypresentations.com](http://www.andypresentations.com) including video of my assemblies, icebreakers, and leadership programs.

## **HALF DAY OPTION**

A half day with me includes TWO presentations of 45-90 minutes each. You have the following choices:

- Two assemblies: Dividing the school in half OR speaking to two different grades.
- Two assemblies: younger grades, followed by a grade 12 only assembly
- One assembly followed by a student leadership workshop.
- Leadership Retreat: A two to three-hour student leadership program, catered to your needs, using my “Making Care Contagious” and “Can I Count on You?” workshops.
- Co-Op / Careers Class/ Workplace Program Retreat: A two-to-three-hour work skills training program catered to your needs based on my “Get Your Hand UP”, “Can I Count on You?” and/or “Initiating Inclusion” presentations.

A third presentation may be possible with a morning booking by adding a workshop for the leaders over lunch, providing that my afternoon schedule allows it.

The afternoon school always gets a free after school program: either a staff meeting or student workshop.

## **May 2022**

*Andy is an engaging public speaker who highlights many IMPORTANT life skills in his presentation 'Can I Count on You?'. His messages of honesty, share your care, and focus on the little things are impactful/useful to any age group. As a Careers teacher, I appreciate how he reiterated many of the conversations/lessons I previously shared with my students. This presentation is an excellent resource, specifically for teens entering the*

workforce. The students all shared that they found it engaging and that they really enjoyed hearing you speak. The only thing I wish we had more of is time!

Received May 2022 from Courtney Parker (Froats), French Immersion Teacher, Student Achievement Leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS, London [courtney.parker@tvdsb.ca](mailto:courtney.parker@tvdsb.ca) She had me speak to the Careers classes and has seen many of my assemblies over the years.

## FULL DAY OPTION

A full day program could include up to 4 assemblies, a 2 to 3-hour student leadership program, and an after-school teacher's program. The day's schedule is completely adjustable to your needs.

Three full-day examples from 2016-2019:

- Banting Secondary in London had a full day by having Andy deliver two assemblies in the morning to the entire student body. In the afternoon, he spoke for 90 minutes at their student leadership camp.
- I.E. Weldon Secondary in Lindsay had Andy deliver two assemblies in the morning, a 2-and-a-half-hour leadership retreat in the afternoon, and an after-school staff program for 45 minutes.
- Frontenac Secondary in Kingston used a full day to offer four assemblies: a full school assembly; an assembly for grades 9/10; a grade 11 assembly; concluding with Andy's special grad program.

**Careers/CO-OP Skills Training.** I have created versions of three of my Leadership Programs for workplace training, with presentation lengths from 60 minutes to a half day or full day retreat. See below. ***"Get Your Hand UP", "Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability" and "Initiating Inclusion by Invitation"***.

## ANDY'S RECENT ONTARIO REFERENCES

A sample of the dozens of schools I have visited in 2022-23,

**AB Lucas SS, London 2023, 2019, 2016, 2013, 2012, 2007,** 2023 and 2019 was a 3 hour leadership retreat for their Athletic Association and Leadership class, 2016 an assembly for 10's, arranged by Paul MacGregor, [p.macgregor@tvdsb.ca](mailto:p.macgregor@tvdsb.ca) Cindy Townsend and Paul Sydor. Paul booked me as a high school student in Watford in the 90s and has known my programs for 25 years.

**Central SS, London 2024, 2023, 2018, 2013 and 5 times since 2003,** 2023 arranged by Bill Smolders, [b.smolders@tvdsb.ca](mailto:b.smolders@tvdsb.ca) who also booked me 5 times at College Ave SS in Woodstock. 2018 arranged by Tegan Mastandrea, both visits for a full day program of two assemblies and a full afternoon leadership workshop. [t.mastrandrea@tvdsb.ca](mailto:t.mastrandrea@tvdsb.ca)

**Sir Frederick Banting SS, London, 2024, 2023, 2019, 2015, 2012, 2011** , May of 2023 and 2019 arranged by Melissa McIntyre for a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> time, [m.macintyre@tvdsb.ca](mailto:m.macintyre@tvdsb.ca) for their "DARE" leadership conference. My appearance at the Conference also featured me performing a full school assembly.

**Waterloo Oxford SS, Baden.** Since 2009, I speak every year to the grade 9s in a 50-minute assembly based on my "Get Your Hand UP" program and then meet with the student leaders. Arranged by longtime leadership advisor Dustin [dustin\\_vanhouwelingen@wrdsb.ca](mailto:dustin_vanhouwelingen@wrdsb.ca) and Josh Cowan.

**Frontenac SS, Kingston.** My sixth visit since 1994 was in the fall of 2022, and current Principal James Bonham-Carter was a young teacher when he saw me at that 1994 appearance! In 2022 I delivered a full day at the

school with 3 assemblies for grades 7 to 12 and a long leader's workshop. Student council advisor Allison Doyle has known me for 20 years. [bonhamcartj@limestone.on.ca](mailto:bonhamcartj@limestone.on.ca)

**Bayridge SS, Kingston.** My fifth visit since 2009, all arranged by Brenda Scarlet. For 2022 I MC'd their first spirit pep rally in 3 years, delivered a high energy version of my "Share your Care" assembly, and then led a 2.5 hour leaders retreat in the afternoon. [scarlettb@limestone.on.ca](mailto:scarlettb@limestone.on.ca)

PLUS over 70 Canadian schools in 2022 to 2023 when assemblies were allowed to return!

## ANDY'S PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

### IMPACTING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Andy offers schools three completely different assembly programs, the length of each is flexible from 45 to 90 minutes. All assemblies use high energy comedy, stories, and interactive cheers to keep your students laughing and listening.

**A Unique Feature of Andy's Assemblies:** Your activities and school character are incorporated into each program, promoting your events to increase participation. Andy will ask for a list of your activities before the speech and will include these examples throughout his presentations. Money invested in Andy's assembly is returned through better fundraising and event participation after he leaves!

#### 1. **"Get Your Hand Up" - School Assembly for grades 6-12**

School is about Learning AND having fun. Do that by getting your hand UP! Answer Questions. Ask Questions. Volunteer. Get involved in the classroom and in the activities of your school!

On the first day of high school, Andy was 6 foot and 115 pounds. His #1 enemy ... the wind! He tried out for the Junior football team and on the second day of school Andy experienced the failure of being cut. This hilarious and inspiring program encourages your students to have an attitude of "Pick Me, Pick Me"!

This powerful assembly will entertain and inspire your students by encouraging them to bring back their grade two enthusiasm and "get their hand up". In the classroom, ask questions, answer the teacher, and try your best. In school and life, volunteer and get involved in all the great activities.

Why don't students "Get Their Hand Up?" The fear of failure: the fear of being wrong in front of friends. You might give a wrong answer, ask a "stupid" question, learn that your best is not as good as others, or volunteer to get involved and yet get cut from a team or play. Andy challenges youth to bring back their grade 2 "recess attitude" which says that although I will make mistakes and get things wrong at times, I will put my hand back up and try again.

#### 2. **"Get Your Hand Up GRADS" – Grade 12 only Assembly**

Andy has created a special version of his "Get your hand up" that is perfect for grade 12 assemblies or grad retreats. With examples from students who were bound for university, community college, the trades or the workforce, Andy uses powerful stories, workplace insights and hilarious comedy to inspire, empower and entertain.

When booking Andy after February 1<sup>st</sup>, please consider a separate assembly for your grads to help prepare them for the final months of high school and life after graduation.

This grads-only presentation can run from 45 to 90 minutes. It is also available as a two-hour retreat or a full day program.

### 3. **“Share Your Care” - School Assembly for grades 1 to 12**

Andy’s Top 3 ways to care: #3 - Show Up! #2 - Participate! #1 – Listen!

What was Andy’s criteria to ask Leica to dance at his first dance in grade 7? That she was hot? That she was cool? No! Hot and cool are temperatures and not characteristics. His criteria was, “will she say no ... nicely?!” Her kindness and character was why he asked her to dance! What would she say? This moving and comedic story about self-confidence and compassion will have everyone in your audience relating to Andy’s journey from shy grade 6 to high school grad.

Andy challenges your students to care about their friends, family, and school the same way they care for strangers who are their favourite performers, internet “stars” and professional athletes. His Top 3 examples of care: Show Up – to class, to practice, to work, to special events; Participate – cheer, dress up, put your hand up in class, dance, laugh, be part of the fundraiser; Listen – ask questions of your classmates and listen to the answers. Create inclusion by asking your classmates and friends questions and truly listening to their answers!

What are the rewards of care? It’s fun! Fun fills your day and life with great memories. Care changes the world! Your acts of care can brighten someone’s day, add to a fundraising total, brings energy to a dance, or feed a person through a school food drive! It changes YOU! You enjoy school more, leading to a better experience in class and building a community of CARE in your school.

“Share Your Care” is about balancing learning with having fun. Dress up for the spirit day while having your hand up in class to answer questions. Hand in your project on time and then attend a fun after school event.

With his messages of kindness, caring and listening, this assembly is a popular choice for anti-bullying campaigns. Be an example of care for others to follow!

Andy also has a version of this assembly for grades 1 to 5 which lasts 45 to 55 minutes.

## **INSPIRING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS**

### 1. **"Making Care Contagious" – Andy’s Student Leadership Workshop**

School Spirit is caring, but how do leaders make this care contagious? This presentation draws from Andy’s experiences as a student leader and as a speaker traveling North America. He has developed 5 Habits that form the core of all successful student leadership activities. This hilarious and high-energy workshop gives hands-on advice on handling negativity; dealing with rejection; having the courage to be an example of good decisions; effective appreciation; communicating care; and improving event promotion and attendance. Follow Andy's 5 Habits to "get your care, out there!"

The session includes games and activities that can be shared with your school at your next meeting or assembly. Schools that book Andy’s workshop get a free copy of the handbook for this program.

This workshop for grades 6 to 12 can run from 45 minutes to 90 minutes. It is also frequently used as a leadership retreat for 2 to 3 hours. Andy can deliver this as the follow up to his school assembly or as a stand-alone leadership event for your school or a group of schools. The program will also empower student council advisors and leadership teachers who are encouraged to participate in this session.

## **2. "Can I Count on You?" – Improving Your Reliability to Lead Yourself and Others**

Execution of ideas is the number one challenge for young leaders. This session will immediately improve the ability of the participants to improve their reliability, teamwork, and organization skills.

This session addresses the concepts of time management from a unique perspective. Trust is the foundation for loving families, fun friendships, spirited students' councils, successful businesses, and effective leaders. Yet people earn the trust of another by being reliable. Andy offers useful and immediately applicable advice for improving reliability. Through his insights, Andy demonstrates how increased reliability improves one's time management, decreases stress, creates successful events, and inspires TRUST in leaders!

With all students and teachers balancing their time between school, family and work commitments, this program can transform how you and your team organizes their priorities!

This program is flexible from 45 minutes to 2 hours.

## **3. "The Impact of Educators" – An Appreciation Keynote or Workshop for School Staff**

Andy is the teaching profession's #1 fan because of the difference teachers have made in his life. It also helps that the mother of his children is a high school French & Computers teacher and that in 2022 he was a Supply teacher for all grades! This program is an empowering reminder to school staff about the difference they make with youth.

In October of grade 9, Andy received a letter from his high school's track and field coach "recruiting" him to be part of the team. That letter changed his life. Expect tears of laughter and powerful reflection as Andy shares the lessons he learned from Coach Young and his efforts to connect with students.

When booking Andy for your school, consider organizing an after-school staff meeting so he can share this powerful program. Its length is flexible to your needs, from 20 minutes to 1 hour.

It is also frequently booked as a keynote or training session for Professional Development days or Teacher or Administrator conferences. The program in this format can run from 1 to 2 hours, with teambuilding activities and additional instruction. A quote regarding Andy's staff programs:

**November 22, 2022**

*Thank you so much for sharing your time and talent with us on Friday morning. Our staff left the session feeling uplifted and ready to take on the world. It was exactly what they needed, thank you! We look forward to booking you to come speak to all of our students in the new year!*

**Erin Debicki, VP, St. Nicholas Catholic School, London 519-675-4409 [edebicki@ldcsb.ca](mailto:edebicki@ldcsb.ca)**

#### 4. **Careers/Co-Op/Workplace Training Workshops Versions of Andy's Presentations "Get Your Hand UP", "Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability" and "Initiating Inclusion by Invitation".**

Looking for a high-energy, interactive, and educational method for your Co-Op/Careers Class students to get their hours and experience in workplace skills and leadership training?

Andy's IMPACT Presentations will help you and your school deliver the **Contextualized Learning Activities for the following Work Habits:** Teamwork; Reliability; Organization; Working Independently; Initiative; Self-advocacy; Customer Service; Entrepreneurship; Time Management; Leadership.

Email him for a special flyer on my options for Co-Op/Careers class programs and presentations. Half day or Full-day options are available. Combine a school assembly and leadership program with a half day with your workplace focused classes!

Andy has developed workplace skills versions of three of his presentations, "Get Your Hand UP", "Can I Count On You?" and "Initiating Inclusion".

Presentations length can be: One Period, Two Periods, or a full day. Any size of audience. Programs can be held in a classroom setting or a larger room as a workshop or assembly.

All presentations include insights from Andy's unique experiences during the pandemic. He worked 9 months at Costco in 2020, 2 months at a Vaccine clinic in early 2022, developed virtual versions of all of Impact Presentations, and became a very busy supply teacher! Andy successfully applied for three different jobs during the pandemic by using the skills he taught students for 30 years! When a tremendous employment crisis hit the speaking and entertainment industry in March of 2020, Andy was successful in "Getting his Hand UP" to demonstrate "Reliability" and "Inclusion" in three uniquely different workplaces! Your students NEED to hear the LESSONS he shares!

**A.B. Lucas SS, Banting SS, South SS and Wilfrid Laurier SS in London have booked this option in 2022-2024.**

#### 5. **"Initiate Inclusion by Invitation" – Andy's Three "I's" of Building Community. A Leadership Training Program for grades 7 to 12.**

*"Inclusion is seeing differences, without seeing the difference." – Andy Thibodeau, 2020*

Inclusion is at the forefront of all schools' goals. For 10 months in 2018-19, Andy's family had three young women from Congo live with them until their housing situation was settled. The ongoing experience of being "Uncle Andrew" to new Canadians from Africa is hilarious, powerful, and insightful. When you initiate inclusion by invitation, his family's experience shows that the rewards go both ways – blessing the giver and receiver! From this experience, his work at the King's College Peace Camp (a children's program promoting understanding between the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths), and working for 9 months in 2020 at Costco, Andy offers perspective to the following challenges:



How can you initiate inclusion? What limits our courage to invite? How can one maintain enthusiasm for invitation and leadership when negative experiences and rejection challenge us in our schools and community? Include, invite, and lead by initiating!

This Careers/Leadership Version of the program divides the training into these modules:

COURAGE – Action and Energy. Barriers to Inclusion. Share Your Barrier. Share Your Story. Set the Example

COMPASSIONATE CHANGE – Patience. Inclusion. Service. Being Approachable. Initiating Change.

CONNECTION – Creating Community. Names. Small Talk to Smart Talk. Common Threads. Teamwork

Leadership themes: Inclusion, Appreciation of Differences, Self-confidence, Communication Skills, Team Building, Community Service.

## **ANDY'S ENERGY – SCHOOL SPIRIT, CHEERS, AND SONG VIDEO EXAMPLES**

For a grades 6 – 12 audience, Andy has your students up every 15 to 20 minutes for school spirit cheer or activity. Here are some examples from schools across North America! Yes, your school staff will love it too!

[Andy's School Staff Program - The Impact of Educators - 11 minutes from Midland HS in 2023](#)

[Andy's Full Day School Program for a Middle and High School - 9 minute Video from Dalhousie, New Brunswick](#)

[Andy leads "Fire it Up" cheer at East Aurora Middle School \(grades 5 to 8\) in NY to lead into Homecoming Week](#)

Teachers and support staff love Andy's energizers. This is a school staff example from a 90 minute program for the staff of five London, Ontario elementary schools. It included this phenomenal energizer activity with the 300+ participants, called "Ohh Ahh Orchestra."

[Andy on YouTube: Ohh Ahh Orchestra with School Staff at a Nov 2022 Event](#)

**March 30, 2023**

*You were great at doing your homework before presenting. Asking what was happening in the school and weaving it into your presentation to connect with kids and school culture, making your message relevant to the school and what's happening in the school. Really positive outlook and presents that way when walking in the halls. Offers to go into classrooms and present which is so great. Overall great connections with school and students. Overall great value for the school as it was a whole day of presenting and interacting with students.*

**Vanessa Flavel, SRC Advisor, at Weyburn Comprehensive School [vanessa.flavel@secpsd.ca](mailto:vanessa.flavel@secpsd.ca)**