

# ANDY THIBODEAU

CREATING ... CARING ... COMMUNITY

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



## ANDY'S ELEMENTARY STUDENT PROGRAMS

My name is Andy Thibodeau, and I am a professional IMPACT speaker specializing in school assemblies for elementary and secondary schools, student leadership programs, and school staff professional development. I am based in my hometown of 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 my high school 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. Prior to the pandemic I averaged over 140 engagements a year. In 2023 I am back to delivering 25 to 25 presentations a month in the seven busy months of the school calendar.

My hilarious and high energy IMPACT presentations remind students that school is about balancing "learning, fun and community service". My programs empower young leaders to be an example of care and good decisions for others to follow.

I would be thrilled to bring my IMPACT presentations to your school!

**For an elementary school I suggest a grades 5-8 assembly for 55 to 75 minutes and a second shorter assembly of 40 to 50 minutes for grades 1-4.**

My daughters both recently graduated from my elementary school, Nicholas Wilson PS here in London. Their mom is a secondary school teacher in French, English, and Business Computing. I bring a unique angle to my elementary assemblies based on their experiences and my own. I am a rare presenter who is equally comfortable in front of a grades 1-4 audience as I am grades 5 to 12, post-secondary and teachers! My skills as an elementary educator kept me busy in the 2022 for 50 days as a supply teacher with my local London District Catholic School Board! Since the spring of 2022 I am back to being a full time IMPACT speaker, leadership training, and children's entertainer!

My website [www.andypresentations.com](http://www.andypresentations.com) includes video of my assemblies, icebreakers, and leadership programs.

## HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

Please share this email with Leadership Council Advisors, Guidance, Assembly Coordinators and Administration.

*I am a rare speaker who has a version of my assemblies for grades 1 to 4 in addition to my programs for grades 5 to 12!*

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 Participation in Student Activities.
- Encourage Mental Wealth, Well-Being, and a Balanced Lifestyle.
- Deliver Fun, Teambuilding, and Energy to a pep rally, assembly, or retreat.
- Complement your messages of Academic Excellence and Effort.
- Train your student leaders on creating events and activities that “Make Care Contagious”.
- Empower students for success in secondary school and beyond!
- Share Appreciation and Encouragement to your School Staff.

*So, this year, when I celebrate over 32 years as a professional speaker and leadership trainer, how can my IMPACT programs help you?*

## ANDY’S IMPACT: Elementary School References

Since May 13, 2022, after delivering over 80 virtual programs in 2021, it was so amazing bring my in-person IMPACT presentations to following elementary schools (in addition to my work with secondary schools, youth conferences, and educator training and special events!)

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS 2022 to 2023 – Over 20 schools and more being booked daily!**

Locke’s PS and June Callwood PS in St. Thomas, St. Joseph’s in Tillsonburg; River Heights in Caledonia; Clemons Mills in Cambridge, Bath School in New Brunswick, Hartland School in New Brunswick, Starpoint Middle in Lockport, NY, East Aurora Middle in NY. St. Nicholas in London, St. George in London, JD Hogarth in Fergus, Salisbury Middle School in NB, Peticodiac Regional Elementary & Middle in NB, Belleisle Middle in NB, TD Michel in Big River in Sask and these K to 12 schools in Saskatchewan: Vanguard, Radville, Gladmar, Eastend, Frontier.

References available from any! Here are two, in addition to St. Francis School below.

**Clemons Mill Senior Elem in Cambridge** – [dana.papalia@wrdsb.ca](mailto:dana.papalia@wrdsb.ca) has booked me 5 times since 2011, including a virtual in 2021 and at the school in May of 2022.

**J.D. Hogarth, Fergus.** [sarah.ladner@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:sarah.ladner@ugdsb.on.ca) has booked me 4 times since 2008! Latest was February 2023.

In the fall of 2022 I spoke at St. Francis elementary school in London for a half day student leadership retreat, two assemblies and then returned on a PD day for a 90 minute staff appreciation program.

**Following my leadership retreat and assembly visit with St. Francis, Julia Rossi, the grade 7/8 teacher and student leadership advisor, sent me the following email:**

*I thought I should also share with you how much you have impacted our student leaders. I have the fortune of seeing them daily and have been at St. Francis for so long that I have had the opportunity to watch them grow. Since your visit with them I have seen them come to life! My quiet and shy leaders are now pulling kids on to the dance floor and engaging students in the hall. They are excited to present new ideas and look for opportunities to help fellow students and classes. They approach every activity ready to show their care. Thank you for your workshop and your assemblies!*

**Julia Rossi** [jrossi@ldcsb.ca](mailto:jrossi@ldcsb.ca) St. Francis School, London.

## **ANDY'S IMPACT PRESENTATIONS: Half Day or Full Day Options**

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HALF DAY**

Two presentations, 45 to 75 minutes each. I do not suggest including JK/SK classes. For that age, I suggest short classroom visits if desired. For elementary schools you have two options:

**Option A:** Two assemblies: Dividing the school in half. A grades 1-4 assembly for 45-55 minutes followed by the grades 5-8 for 50 to 90 minutes.

**Option B:** One assembly for grades 5 to 8 followed by a student leadership workshop.

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.

DISCOUNTED FEE if we book another school to share the day! **Save \$200!**

Afternoon school always gets a FREE after-school staff appreciation program of 20 to 45 minutes.

**ALL presentations feature a mix of energizers, cheers, and games to keep the audience interested, laughing, and engaged! For grades 1 to 4, the students are up to do an activity every 10-15 minutes. For grades 5 to 12, it is every 15-20 minutes.**

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - FULL DAY**

Create a program of assemblies and leadership workshops to fit your needs. Many schools will do two assemblies and then a half day leaders' workshop or two leadership workshops. Another option is to have me visit 2 or 3 classes in your period blocks and deliver a small group leadership training time. Conclude the day with an after-school staff program. **Examples:**

**Aurora Preparatory Elementary, November, 2022**, in York Region. Two school assemblies in the morning for the grades 1 to 8. A staff program over lunch. A two-hour student leadership retreat in the afternoon.

**St. George School, London. January, 2023.** Their Principal, Maria Giampa booked me for two assemblies in the morning. I then delivered a leadership program with grades 5 to 7 classes in the afternoon across 3 classroom visits at 40 minutes each.

**JD Hogarth Elementary, Fergus. February, 2023.** Assembly for grades 1-3, Assembly for grades 4-8. Meet with their student leaders during both breaks. Kindergarten program for 20 minutes. After school staff appreciation.

**The most unique quality of my presentations is that your school's events, activities, and accomplishments are incorporated into the programs. 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!**

## **ANDY'S PRESENTATION SUMMARIES**

### **IMPACTING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES**

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

Andy offers schools two 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!

#### **A) "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 of 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.

Work ethic, School Spirit, Self-Confidence, Resiliency, and Volunteerism are the key themes of this assembly.

## **B) "Share Your Care" - School Assembly for grades 1 to 12**

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

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 events, Inclusion messaging, and Pink Shirt campaigns. Be an example of care for others to follow!

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

Andy's version for grades 6 to 12 ends with this story: 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.

Themes of Community Service, Inclusion, Kindness, School Spirit, Self-Confidence, Bullying Awareness are woven into the program.

## **ANDY'S "SHARE YOUR CARE" VIDEO EXAMPLES:**

[Andy on Youtube - "Share Your Care" The Care Bubble opening - Grades 1 to 4](#)

Filmed as my first assembly in 27 months, May 2022, at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary in Tillsonburg, Ontario. A grades 1 to 4 audience. 3-minute clip.

[Andy on Youtube - "Share Your Care" Participate in Class - Grades 5 to 8](#)

Filmed in 2016 at Mitchell Hepburn School in St. Thomas, Ontario, for a grades 5 to 8 audience. 4-minute clip.

# INSPIRING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

*Inspiring Leadership Training that is Educational, Interactive, and Habit Changing. For Grades 6 to 8.*

## 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.

### **SAMPLE VIDEO**

Filmed in the fall of 2022 at an elementary school in London, this 5 minute video clip features a 4 minute review of the content of that morning's two hour leadership retreat. You can see how I use call and response and movement to promote the memorization and implementation of the lessons. Note my weaving of the school mascot and the upcoming events in my examples as I make all of my programs relevant and relatable to my audiences!

[Andy's "Making Care Contagious" Leaders workshop for Elementary Students - 5 minute review video on YouTube](#)

## 2. **The Impact of Educators**" – An Appreciation Program for all School Staff

In fall 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 laughter and powerful reflection as Andy shares the lessons he learned from Coach Young and his efforts to connect with students.

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.

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 and Administrator conferences. The program in this format can run from 1 to 2 hours, with teambuilding activities and additional instruction.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, five elementary schools in London came together with their full staff of teachers, EAs, ECEs, and Custodians to here me speak as part of Professional Development Day. Organized by the VP of St. Nicholas Elementary in London, Erin Debicki, she wrote the following in an email: ***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!***

Yes, even 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](#)

### **3. "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."

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!

By special request, this can be a leadership keynote for conferences for grades 6 to 12 or for in-school leadership training in a workshop or classroom setting. 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 1 to 4/5 audience, Andy has your students up every 8 to 10 minutes to participate in a cheer or camp style song. For a grades 5/6 – 12, every 15 minutes for school spirit cheer or activity. Here are some examples from schools across North America! Yes, your school staff will love it too! Here are some links to Andy's Energy on Video.

["Dexterity Check" cheer to end Andy's Assembly at Lake City Secondary in Williams Lake BC - 35 seconds](#)

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

[Andy leads the "Pizza Man" song for grades 1 to 4 at an Ontario Elementary School - 2 minutes](#)

[Andy leads the "Moose Song" for grades 1 to 4 at an Ontario Elementary School - 2 minutes](#)

[Andy ends a Pep Rally at Bayridge Secondary in Kingston, ON with the "Dexterity Check" cheer - 1 minute](#)

*Please consider my IMPACT presentations with your team as you plan an exciting school year! I wish you strength and inspiration for the challenging and exciting times ahead!*