

DURING CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

The York Catholic District School Board Salutes Our:



2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Andi Petrillo

Sportscaster
CBC Sports and OneSoccer

Andi Petrillo learned how powerful sports can be in teaching valuable life lessons and bringing people together as a team through her school experience. She is a graduate of St. Joan of Arc CHS in Maple, Ontario, Andi played on the basketball, soccer, and volleyball teams. The wins, the losses, the friendships, the hardships, the sports world was one Andi knew she wanted to be a part of once school was done. Despite many obstacles and resistance in accepting a woman pursuing a career in sports, Andi went on to be the first woman to accomplish many things in the Canadian sports landscape: The first woman to be part of the in-studio Hockey Night in Canada on-air crew, the first woman to have her own daily sports radio talk show, the first woman to win a Canadian Screen Award in the Best Host category, and the first woman to be voted Outstanding Sports Broadcaster by Sports Media Canada.

Andi lends her voice to many panels and is a guest speaker at universities, teaching the tricks of the trade; but more importantly, stressing the value of diversity and acceptance in the sports world.



Andrew Nembhard

Professional Basketball Player
Indiana Pacers

Andrew Nembhard was selected by the Indiana Pacers as the 31st overall pick in the 2022 NBA Draft. Impressively, he is already a member of the team's starting lineup. He was recently named to the 2023 Jordan Rising Stars Challenge during NBA All-Star Weekend. Andrew played on the senior national team for the 2019 FIBA World Cup. He graduated from St. Jerome CES in Aurora. Andrew later studied in the United States and played ball for Montverde Academy, the University of Florida and Gonzaga University. He was named to the All-West Coast Conference First Team and was the WCC Tournament Most Outstanding Player. Andrew was also a finalist for the Bob Cousy Point Guard of the Year. He was named the WCC Sixth Man of the Year as a junior and helped Gonzaga reach the Final Four in the NCAA March Madness tournament. Andrew is a true team player on and off the court. His compassion and sportsmanship always shine through as an unselfish leader who works hard to provide play opportunities for everybody.

Andrew has volunteered with youth camps and has been an online guest speaker during Black Mental Health Engagement Night advocating for positive mental health.



Daniele Rossi

Digital Marketer and Cartoonist
Stuttering is Cool

Daniele Rossi is a digital marketer and cartoonist living in Toronto. He has been stuttering and drawing comics ever since he was four years old. He is a graduate of St. Elizabeth CHS in Thornhill. Daniele grew up to eventually produce the *Stuttering is Cool* podcast and write a book of the same name. His *Stuttering is Cool* book stars his comic character named Franky Banky, a cartoon fox who stutters. Daniele's book has been used by speech pathologists for school-aged children and it has recently been translated into a French edition. Daniele is an active participant in the global stuttering community. He co-founded Stutter Social, an online community that facilitates group video chats for people who stutter. He is an advisory member to the board of the Canadian Stuttering Association; and he draws Franky Banky comics for the Association's quarterly newsletter. Daniele says that he has incorporated the principles of Catholic education into his career and his comics.

He is especially committed to service and to helping others and he feels he can do this best through the strength of his faith and Christ's teachings.



Jim Anderson

TV Station Manager
Rogers tv

Jim Anderson is a Station Manager for Rogers tv. He runs four stations in York Region (Georgina studio), Dufferin-Caledon, Durham Region and North Durham-Kawartha. He attended Our Lady Help of Christians CES and graduated from St. Robert CHS before studying Radio and Television Broadcasting at Seneca College. Jim has been working in community television for over 37 years and has worked in several positions including playback operator, camera operator, director, editor, and producer. He has grown up, worked in, and continues to live in York Region. Jim is a proud husband and father of four children who also attended schools at York Catholic DSB. A dedicated volunteer, he has coached with Georgina Minor Baseball Association for 26 years and is on the Board of Directors of Georgina Cares, a local children's charity. He has also mentored hundreds of co-op students throughout York Region. Jim says that his Catholic school education formed who he is today.

He believes that everyone should get involved in their community as it leads to personal growth and he lives by the words "leave the world better than you found it."



Dr. John Calarco

Assistant Professor, Department of Cell and Systems Biology, University of Toronto

Dr. John Calarco is an Assistant Professor and researcher in the Department of Cell and Systems Biology at the University of Toronto, and a Canada Research Chair in Neuronal RNA Biology. He has spent a large part of his career trying to understand how the genetic information written in our DNA is used as a blueprint to build the complex organs of our body, such as the brain. He is an alumnus of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Peter's CES and Father Bressani CHS. He completed his Ph.D. studies in Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto, and was awarded a Bauer Fellowship to start his own research lab at Harvard University. Since returning to Canada, he fondly remembers the many great teachers who inspired him along his own path. Now, a teacher himself, he currently strives to train and mentor the next generation of young scientists. He attributes the positive experiences he had throughout his Catholic education to the caring and compassionate teachers, staff and classmates he spent every day with.

He believes this influenced him to reciprocate these values to the people around him in his adult life.



Maria-Rosa La Neve

Registered Nurse and Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator

Maria-Rosa La Neve is a Registered Nurse, a Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator, and a RSV Nurse Coordinator at The Hospital for Sick Children. She graduated from The Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto. Maria-Rosa began her nursing career as a bedside nurse in SickKids' Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she cared for critically ill and medically complex neonates. In 2019, Maria-Rosa transitioned to her current role in clinical research with the Division of Infectious Diseases. In this role, she coordinates the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Program, providing immunoprophylaxis to vulnerable pediatric patients. This work was especially important when the resurgence of RSV placed a strain on Canada's pediatric intensive care units. Since the start of the pandemic, Maria-Rosa has coordinated several COVID-19 related research projects involving participants of all ages. She is proud to play a role in research that will improve our understanding of viruses and inform best practices in treatment and prevention strategies. She enjoys helping others and is a strong advocate for children.

Maria-Rosa credits her Catholic education experiences at St. Rene Goupil CES, St. Michael CA, and St. Robert's CHS for teaching her the importance of community and helping others.