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NATIONAL OFFICE

2010 Winston Park Drive, Suite 500, Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6H 5R7  
Tel: (905) 829-8805 ○ Toll Free: 1-800-665-MADD ○ Fax: (905) 829-8860 ○ Web: madd.ca ○ Email: info@madd.ca

Dear Parents,

Cunard Jr. High will be hosting a MADD Canada *School Program* on March 6, 2024 for the grade seven & eight students.

On average, every year in Canada **hundreds** of people are killed and **thousands** are seriously injured as a result of crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs. Impaired driving is the number 1 criminal cause of death in Canada. The devastating impact on victims/survivors and their families is immeasurable. In an instant, their lives are changed forever.

It's never too early to teach our youth about the dangers of impaired driving and getting in a vehicle with an impaired driver. Traffic crashes remain by far the largest single cause of death among 16-25 year olds. Amongst the age group, almost 56% of all motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol and/or drug-related. While young people are significantly overrepresented in alcohol-related deaths as drivers, they are overrepresented to an even greater extent as passengers. The problem of impaired driving among youth in Canada is very real.

You may not have been aware that Canadians between the ages of 14 and 25 have one of the highest rates of cannabis use in the world. Therefore, the combination of drugs and driving is also a major concern for our young people.

This year, we are offering schools 3 presentations to choose from for their students. The presentations being shown are: ***Final Play***, ***Over the Edge*** and ***No Tomorrow*** and they open with fictional stories that illustrate the tragic consequences of driving while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. Throughout these films, students are shown times when the tragedy could have been prevented by making different choices. The second half of the program is new this year, it will include additional exercises for the students such as a true and false quiz so there is more interactivity with the students and more opportunity for hands on learning. The third part of the presentation contains real testimonials from victims/survivors of impaired driving. These are impactful and powerful and show the devastating consequences that can happen when people make the decision to drive impaired.

**So why is it important for students in grades 7-12 to view *School Program*?** Although your child might not be driving yet, he or she will soon be thinking about the possibility of driving. They may already find themselves in situations where alcohol and/or drugs are present. As well, they may have opportunities to ride with an inexperienced young driver. As they learn to be more independent, they need to know the facts and be ready to avoid dangerous situations involving impaired driving.

Delivered through Canadian schools since 1994, MADD Canada's *School Program* presents students with solid information and best practices to help them understand the issue of impaired driving from alcohol and drugs. The hi-tech presentation has proved to be an effective method to raise awareness and for providing safety strategies.



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The *School Program* has an enormous impact on Canadian students and will influence their own decision-making for years to come. We hope that after your child sees this presentation that you will be able to have a family discussion about what they have learned. By educating our future generation about impaired driving, lives will be saved and injuries prevented. Impaired driving is a totally senseless crime and is 100% preventable.

Sincerely,

MADD Canada

**P.S.**

For additional information and resources for parents go to:  
<https://maddyouth.ca/school-program/>