

Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving (O.S.A.I.D.)

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This year, Centennial received the chance of a lifetime to host the National Launch for the tenth annual NSAIDD (National Students Against Impaired and Distracted Driving) Day on October 21st. The OSAID group along with Laurie Iannetti and Mrs. Pelissero were ecstatic when they found out, that they were going to be the National Launch school for all of Canada. National Students Against Impaired and Distracted Driving Day happens on the third Tuesday of October each year for the last decade. Hopefully there will be many more to come. This day is held to inform students about the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

Some people believe that impaired driving is only when you are under the influence of alcohol. But it's NOT! Impaired driving also includes distracted driving as well. You could simply just be talking on your cell phone, changing a CD or be slightly over tired. Nobody realizes these distractions impair your ability to drive safely. But a second is all it takes!

On October 21st, our OSAID group hosted an assembly for over 800 staff and students. We were also thankful to welcome Brittany Beatty our key note speaker. Brittany is a 13 year old professional go-kart driver from Woodstock, Ontario. She spoke to the students about her experiences behind the wheel, and why it is so important to her that we take care on the roads. Brittany also said during her speech that "getting a driver's license is a privilege not a right." Brittany is the youngest OSAID member in Ontario. Brittany says "the odds are stacked against street racers, with so many unknown factors, it is the fast track to only one thing...being a loser."



Centennial Hosts 10th Annual National Students Against Impaired Driving Day on October 21, 2008

We had many dignitaries in attendance; The Director of Education, Mr. Hoshizaki; Superintendent, Mr. Stainsby; Mr. Pellitier and 6 grade eight students from Quaker Road School; The Chief of Police, Ms. Southhall; Constables Cathy Edgecombe and Lori Emick. Constables Edgecombe and Emick have been involved in many activities during the past three years here at Centennial and we appreciate their support and involvement. Matt Evans, the director of OSAID; Anne Leonard from OCCID (Ontario Community Council of Impaired Driving; OPP Staff Sergeant Jan Idzenga; and Stephen and Frances Wdowczyk, NSAIDD Day Directors.

Our original staff advisor here at Centennial, Laurie Iannetti, has been involved with various OSAID and Think and Drive activities for more than 15 years. She has reached out to students for their support in order to help her reach her goal of raising awareness around the dangers of impaired and distracted driving. She welcomes Mrs. Pelissero to the group this year and is very thankful for her assistance. It is their goal to reach out to the community this year, especially our parent community.

Last year in May, three OSAID members along with Mrs. Iannetti were able to go to the Provincial Conference at Sheridan College in Oakville. It was a four day conference where hundreds of students from all across the province joined together to celebrate their work. They learned about Impaired and Distracted Driving and different ways to share information with their peers. They decided to bring it home to Centennial to share what they learned. It was an eye opener to see that they were a part of something so huge. It was incredible to learn that there are so many other students in the province that have the same ideas as we do.

We hope that we can do many great things in the community this year, as we have done in the past. We are always welcoming new members.. We meet every Monday at lunch in Guidance. Hope to see you there! Sincerely, Your OSAID Group!

