

## Information for Parents

### *about the improbable Players' presentation*

On Tuesday, February 7, 2017, our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be attending a program about alcohol and other drug abuse prevention presented by the **Improbable Players**, a theater company of young professional actors who are in long-term recovery. "I'll Never Do That!" has been welcomed in schools for over 32 years. It's a light-hearted play with a spectrum of scenes that explore stereotypes and issues about substance abuse and depicts a family and how they deal with drinking in their family.

After the performance, the actors share their own stories and engage in a question/answer session with the audience. Students are encouraged to talk among themselves and with you, about the issues raised. The school counselor will announce resources available in the community.

### What you can do to follow-up with your child

You can play an active role in supporting your children through these years when they or their friends may be experimenting with substances. We would encourage you to use this program as an opportunity to have a conversation about alcohol and drug use in our community. Think about a few issues you may want to discuss regarding alcohol and drug use. For example, you might:

1. Ask about their impressions of the program.
2. Listen to what your child has to say and try to follow his/her lead. What did they find interesting about the presentation? What did they find troubling or surprising? (Often students are most interested in the life experiences of the actors.)
3. Ask them if the program felt relevant to them, given their own experiences.
4. Take time to discuss your family's values and rules about drinking and drugs. Does your child know where you stand on these issues, and why?
5. Discuss the legal and school consequences of underage alcohol use and of drug use. School-based consequences are outlined in the school's alcohol and drug policy.
6. If needed, remind your child that there are local resources in addition to those on the list provided (if provided). Encourage them to contact a guidance counselor, the school adjustment counselor or psychologist, a teacher, a coach, a relative or a religious organization.

From [www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov](http://www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov): "Real kids are curious about alcohol. 40% have tried it by the time they reach 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Talking to your children early and often can make a difference."

More information about Improbable Players,  
their plays and workshops can be found at  
**[www.improbableplayers.org](http://www.improbableplayers.org)**

# Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School

## *improbable* PLAYERS

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

A question for all of us -

“What should you do if you know someone who takes drugs, but you are not close enough to them to talk about it to them? Is it just their own business?”

..a letter to the Players from a middle school student



*improbable* **PLAYERS**  
*real people-real stories*  
**Boston and New York**

[www.improbableplayers.org](http://www.improbableplayers.org)

### The power of live theater

Everybody knows somebody whose life has been adversely affected by alcohol and other drug abuse.

Improbable Players present performances and drama workshops that feature actors who are all in long-term recovery and who get audiences thinking and talking

about the issues.

Local community resources are always highlighted, and health educators welcome students to visit and talk about the topics

### Reaching young people dramatically

**I'll Never Do That!** Is the play that launched the Improbable Players in 1984. It features a classic story of alcoholism that vividly portrays how a family is torn apart by one person's drinking.

Alcohol and other drug abuse is America's number one health problem—and too often a dark secret. The Players' goal is to let people in families and relationships where this is happening know they are not alone, and that help is available.

"I'll Never Do That!" is part of a repertoire of eight other substance abuse prevention plays that tour to schools, colleges, conferences, and communities.

**Teachers:** "The students' questions and concerns in the follow-up sessions demonstrated the strong impact of your program."



Is *this* what an alcoholic or drug addict looks like?

"Your program is the most effective approach I've seen for students to learn about critical substance abuse issues—we have all talked about it long after your visit."

**Students:** "I learned to appreciate my family. Your show made me

think that it's possible to ask for help—and that there are choices."

"The actors went through what I went through, so it makes you feel like you're not alone."

"Some kids said they bet no one was influenced, but I truly was."

### You can play a part

Improbable Players is a non-profit founded in 1984 by three actors in recovery who wanted to bring issues with alcohol/drugs out in the open and to encourage people to get the help they need.

Seven actors in New York and

ten in Boston travel the east coast with performances, discussions, and drama workshops, supported by sales, foundation grants, and donations from individuals.

Each year over 40,000 young people have a chance to view or participate in a program.

Help support the work of the Players! Send a tax-deductible donation to:

Improbable Players, Inc.  
22 Mt. Auburn St, Ste 5  
Watertown, MA 02472-3955

