

AHS students team up with Tigers to support Jumpstart program



By Jake Courtepatte

A recent national study showed that 66 per cent of Canadian parents have borrowed money or dug into retirement savings to put their kids into extracurricular activities.

That's why programs like Canadian Tire's Jumpstart are more important than ever.

Grade 12 marketing students at Aurora High School had those exact thoughts when they decided to use a school project to help kids get back in the game.

Collin Dyer, Vanessa Hanson, and Alex Dover are working with the Junior A Aurora Tigers to bring Aurora the first ever 'Student Night' at the Aurora Community Centre, coming this Friday at the Tigers' home game against the Stouffville Spirit.

Students with a valid student ID can get into the game for only \$7, with proceeds going to the Jumpstart program.

Dyer, who sometimes attends junior games as a night out with his dad, saw a way to use his love for hockey with a family connection at Canadian Tire.

'Sports are important for kids growing up,' said Dyer. 'It's a part of being a kid.'

The Jumpstart program, which has helped over one million kids get involved in sports, focuses on giving kids with financial needs the same sporting opportunities as their classmates, neighbours, and friends.

Dover said the aim of the project is to give all kids in the Aurora community equal opportunities.

'Playing sports is becoming more and more expensive, and families these days need all the help they can get.'

The three marketing students contacted Tigers owner Jim Thomson, who jumped at the opportunity to get involved.

A number of activities are also planned for the evening, including a shoot-the-puck for a chance to win an iPhone 6 or Mac computer, as well as a bake sale, puck toss, and 50-50 draw.

Dover said the project has received positive responses so far, and they hope to get as many classmates and students as possible from Aurora to contribute.