The Scoop
Mable Hastings

The Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child initiative gives people of all ages the opportunity to become involved in a “hands-on” project at Christmas time. Shoeboxes are filled with a variety of items: school supplies, appropriate toys, hygiene items which can be given to children regardless of gender, religion or race. Over 600,000 shoeboxes were distributed in 2013 and to date, over 100 million worldwide.

Sandy Jersey and other volunteers from the Mansonville Baptist Church (including Lynn Chapman-Bedard, Allison and Wanda Leonard and Diane White) have been busy, through the kindness of members of their Church, preparing boxes that will join those being done by Sherbrooke’s Green Ridge Baptist Church initiated by regional representative, Shane Wheeler.

The Samaritan Purse website, www.samaritanspurse.ca, says that, in 2014 shoeboxes will be distributed in Uruguay, El Salvador, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Venezuela and other countries.

For Sandy Jersey, this is a project near and dear to her heart. She has been involved in doing shoe boxes each year for quite some time.

“This year’s boxes are done and have been sent,” explained Jersey. “People can always do a box for next year,” she encouraged. Boxes are usually prepared in the first two weeks of November. Through the kindness of others, many children around the world will surely feel blessed when their shoebox arrives. Sandy Jersey would like to extend her appreciation to everyone who helped to make this year’s boxes possible.

Knowlton Academy newspaper coming in the new year

Knowlton Academy

The school is set up in stations like face painting, tug of war, tennis ball madness, scooter soccer, sponge throw, remote control cars and tennis ball throw, a haunted house and there is also a table set up with donations of books, toys and board games you can buy.

(Parents help out SO much with this) We always look forward to it because it is one day in the entire school year that we can roam around and do fun activities. The best part is the sponge throw (at teachers). I couldn’t believe the wonderful atmosphere. Each student knew what they wanted to do and it is so well organized that the event runs itself with a positive and fun environment. I just found out that it has been operating for well over 20 years.

By Chris and Michael Barkhouse

Another wonderful program that has been running for well over eight years is our Bistro Program run by Debbie Brodie and Sharon Budd. The 18-students involved meet twice a week and prepare all the food ahead of time. The most recent Bistro luncheon was held on Nov. 10 and was a huge success. They should all be very proud of themselves and their hard work!

Last month as part of the Knowlton Literary Festival, Jennifer Lanthier author of The Stamp Collector visited our Cycle 3 students and here is the write up from one of our newspaper reporters Mya Wilson:

Friday, Oct. 18, Jennifer Lanthier came to visit and she read from her wonderful book The Stamp Collector.

She wrote this book because in some countries journalists don’t have the right to express their feelings in words and if they do, they often end up in jail. By writing this book she hopes maybe one day they will have the right to express their feelings in words without fear of imprisonment. She told us we are so lucky in this country to be able to do so. We were so grateful for her visit.

By Mya Wilson

Did you know that Mrs. Gore reads to all the students every week and that she has Tea Parties for those who have been extra special? Mrs. Gore’s love of literacy is evident everywhere in the school, its all about books, books, books and her wonderful book bag program and she always has the latest books outside and inside her office just waiting to be picked up and read.

A teddy bear picnic was held in the gym of K.A. a few weeks ago to celebrate the Winnie the Pooh books’ 100th birthday. Everyone brought their teddy bears and favourite blanket and listened to the story of how Winnie became such a famous bear. What a fun picnic it was complete with two gorgeous cakes made by our very own. All the bears and all children had a wonderful picnic.

Mansonville Baptist Church Supports Samaritan’s Purse Shoebox Project

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Sandy Jersey with some of the boxes prepared in Potton.