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Weather



TODAY:
RAIN

HIGH OF 5
LOW OF -10



TUESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -7
LOW OF -14



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -6
LOW OF -8



THURSDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUDS

HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -7



FRIDAY:
PERIODS OF
SNOW

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -12

What do snowmen, Christmas cookies, movie night and Christmas wishes have in common?



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

I have had the pleasure of working with youth as a career for over 35 years and while I learn something new most every week in my exchanges with young people at the Missisquoi North Youth Centre (CABMN); holiday time always seems to bring with it something new to ponder.

Children are one of the most forthcoming vessels of truth and as I went about my business this week in groups with them, I asked my usual Christmas question, "What do you want for Christmas?" The answers varied as they always do and as I start this article about what the kids are up to at the CABMN Youth Centre, I am sharing a few of the wishes for gifts that I received...

A three year old who shall remain anonymous responded, "Band-Aids, 'cause we are out at home." A ten year old stated, "M&M's, soft blankets and comfy pillows." A little boy who is eight whose family is on a limited budget joyously shouted in the wind in hopes that Santa was listening, "I want a Nintendo Switch and that costs LOTS of money!" And a sixteen year old teen kept it all in perspective in asking for the following.... "No fighting...there is always fighting in our house and I would like just one night of peace."

So, this week as the Boys group joined together to build a snowman, the Leadership group baked cookies and made hot chocolate that they delivered to neighbours around the youth centre and the SADD/Drop-in youth went out to a movie as a fun activity, all were reflecting on their hopes, dreams and concerns as we enter into what is supposed to be a joyous time of year.



PICTURES COURTESY

As I watch them, some struggling, some leading, some surviving and some excelling I cannot help but feel a huge sense of admiration as these kids come out each week to partake in groups, share friendships, and do things in their community. Always I see hope in their eyes, spirit in their attitudes and determination in their tasks.

I know I speak for all of the staff at the Youth Centre when I say that working with kids enriches our lives, gives us

hope and occasionally tugs at our heart-strings. We are however extremely grateful to have a small role in their lives and in witnessing their growth and accomplishments.

As Santa loads up his sleigh with Band-Aids, Nintendo Switches, cozy bedding and a day of Peace, we cannot help but hope, with childlike anticipation that each youth finds love, support, joy and a touch of Christmas magic this holiday season.

Ben by Daniel Shelton

