

## Literacy

Gagetown & Jemseg Imagination Library: **Gagetown Rotary and Jemseg Lions Club** (Oct 2013)

To improve literacy skills for preschool children in their community, the Gagetown Rotary and the Jemseg Lions Club implemented a local offering of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Independent reports have shown that this program drastically improves early childhood literacy for children enrolled in the program.



High quality, age-appropriate books are mailed directly to families enrolled in the program.

Children become excited about receiving books mailed directly to them each month which fuels an interest in learning to read.

“These are really lovely children’s stories, sort of timeless”, described one of the mothers, “and they reach across different cultures too. Already they’ve seen some cultural diversity, which I think is really important to expose our children to at a young age, to teach them about different people and different walks of life.”

This is an inclusive program offered to all families living in the catchment area of the Cambridge Narrows School. The total number of children under five in this area is approximately 80.

In addition, 15 youth received training on how to construct bookcases at nearby Queenstown Industries, which were then donated to families enrolled in the program. The bookcases provide a place to store books as each child’s library expands.