

## New toddler program at library

School has started and fall programming at Mauney Memorial Library has begun. This year we have expanded our outreach program to include more sites, and to reach children and adults in groups that have not been reached before. Mrs. Louise Sanders, the Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator, is excited about the new opportunities which have opened to us this year.

One of our new program is Toddler Time, which will begin in October. It is important to reach children as early as possible and to develop an appreciation for books and literature. It we wait until the pre-school years, many of the children will fall through the cracks. Lifetime habits and patterns of behavior are established in the first two or three years of a child's life and we must reach him during this developmental state if we hope to nurture a disposition for lifetime learning.

Programs for toddlers are designed to teach basic skills and concepts, such as colors, animal sounds, big and little, etc., and to introduce the children to books and good literature. Mrs. Sanders will work with the parents as well as provide helpful hints on how they can work with their children at home and incorporate learning experiences in every day activities. Bibliographies of books and materials will be available, which will help the parent to select appropriate books, educational toys, and activities for his child. Preregistration is required for the toddler program. Call Mrs. Sanders at 739-2371.

Other programs will be held at other locations in the community. This includes Head Start classes, Smart Start programs, and Pine Manor. We hope that we can include other apartment complexes and sites in the community which need our services as the program develops.

Head Start is designed to prepare underprivileged children for kindergarten by teaching the basic



ROSE TURNER  
KM Librarian

skills and concepts. This year Mrs. Sanders has been able to work with Head Start teachers to schedule library programs each month so that the children will be introduced to reading, books and library services. It is essential to reach children before school age, while patterns of behavior are still in the process of being developed, and to foster an appreciation for books and literature.

Mrs. Sanders is also working with Smart Start as a resource person, and will be available for programs. Smart Start serves basically the same age group as Head Start but is governed by different guidelines. Smart Start has set up programs at some of the schools and at Pine Manor and Mrs. Sanders is working with these people to incorporate library materials, books and reading in the classes.

In reaching children, we often have to reach the adults first. Adult literacy is a major problem at Pine Manor and other areas of Kings Mountain. Many parents lack the basic literacy skills themselves and are therefore unable to help their children. Mrs. Sanders is coordinating a Laubach literacy tutoring program which will match students with tutors on a one on one basis so that each student can progress at his own pace. We need to add more tutors to our list for this project, so that when a student expresses an interest in learning to read, he will not have to wait for a tutor. Adult students are easily discouraged because of the many pressures and conflicting responsibilities to which they are subject, and the inability to get a tutor at this time an

interest is expressed often convinces the student of the futility of trying to better himself. These students are not likely to make any further attempt to learn to read. Working with these people makes for a very fragile situation and can be very challenging. If we are to meet their needs, we must provide the tutors and the materials when the student is ready and motivate him to continue with the program.

Continuing outreach programs include the after school care, the preschools, day care centers, and school visits, as well as library tours when requested. In addition to working with children, Mrs. Sanders also works with adult groups who cannot come to the library. She goes to White Oak Manor and the Senior Center each month with a program and a selection of books for the participants to check out.

In addition to programs, Mrs. Sanders is also establishing a series of deposit boxes at various locations throughout the community where patrons can check out and return books. She has placed deposit boxes at the Senior Center, the Recreation Department, and Pine Manor. In this way, more people will have access to books.

Mrs. Sanders has an extremely busy schedule this year and would like to recruit some volunteers to assist her. Volunteers would be able to serve in a number of ways, such as assisting in storytelling, preparing flannel board stories, keeping statistics, and much more. Anyone interested in volunteering should call Mrs. Sanders at 739-2371.

### Call Hot Line number for Fall foliage updates

Travelers wanting the latest fall foliage forecasts will be able to call the toll-free visitor information hot line, 1-800-VISIT NC, for up-to-the-minute information on fall color in North Carolina.

Weekly leaf reports and updates were available beginning Monday.

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