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LIBRARIAN WITH EARLY LITERACY MISSION WORKS WITH SCHOOLS FOR C-PP KIDS

Miss Sue, as she is known to hundreds of families in the region, has been hard at work this fall as children in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District went back to school.

Sue McConnell is the Children's Librarian for the Southeast Steuben County Library. During the last several weeks McConnell has been visiting the local elementary schools and working with Ann Collins the principal at Gregg School specifically to create displays that work with the K through grade two Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum.

This is a new curriculum with changing domains or themes as the school year progresses. For each domain, McConnell collects reading list titles that are related to the "Listening and Learning" component and creates a display that makes the supplemental materials more easily accessible to parents and students.

"I think the parents find it valuable," said McConnell. "From the first day of school this year we've had parents coming in with reading lists. Having these required books on display helps busy parents."

The library had many of the reading list books, but McConnell has had to purchase others.

"Sue has always been an instrumental partner to the C-PP school district," said Gregg School Principal Ann Collins. "She has been coming into the schools for many years. It just really made sense to coordinate with Sue and the library as the Core Knowledge Language Arts program was getting started in the Corning District."

In previous years McConnell has made sure the library had titles required by grades three through eight.

"This is the first year for CKLA for the K through grade two age group," she said.

McConnell attended several events around the district to let parents know about the supplemental reading materials available at the library.

"She also attended each of the 6 elementary schools for our parent open houses to help sign our students up for library cards, and that was a strong way to let parents know that about the partnership between the schools and the library as we roll out this new program [CKLA]," Collins said.

As a children's librarian McConnell is aware of the value of early literacy for children. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends reading to children from birth.

"The Listening and Learning component is a continuation of that early literacy effort," said McConnell.

Collins added that McConnell goes beyond reading lists. She asks questions and really wants to know how the children are being taught so that she can offer the best possible complementary early literacy services when they come into the library and when she comes into the schools and preschools for outreach programs.

The Southeast Steuben County Library offers four regular story times each week as well as special story times and other programs such as the Happy Tales Therapy Dog Story time. In addition, McConnell and Children's Specialist Erica Flanagan go out into the schools and preschools each week to promote literacy and entertain children through fun stories.

For more details about story times, call (607)936-3713 ext. 503 or visit the library website ssclibrary.org.

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*Programs made possible by the Friends of the Library
The library is handicapped accessible. If you require special accommodations, please call us in
advance: (607) 936-3713.*