



NEWSLETTER

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July/August 2014

A Letter from Laura

It's time for our annual Student and Tutor Recognition Event! Of the many events we host throughout the year, this is my favorite because it celebrates each one of you. And this year's event is even more special because it recognizes PSC's 30th anniversary!

So mark your calendar for Thursday, September 4 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the main Pleasant Hill Library. And please invite your family members – we'd love to meet them, and we know they'd enjoy the evening. We'll have cake and punch, and some very special student speakers.

We'll also be releasing our most recent book of student writings, *In Our Words*. This book will amaze you: it's funny, sweet, and hopeful; and it would be a wonderful, fresh addition to your reading lessons.

The evening will also provide an opportunity to celebrate some very special tutors. Five tutors have volunteered more than 1,000 hours with Project Second Chance! They are: **Gina Ambrose, Sue Klingman, Lora Osterloh, Sharon Smith, and Dan Wichlan**. Wow!! And many others are well on their way to this amazing milestone. These nine tutors have volunteered more than 500 hours: **Jane Copps, Cynthia Ding, Carleen Goeckel, Alison Hill, Lois Kary, Jennifer Kilian, Christi McCullough, Connie Pfahl, and Leslie Satin**.

Lastly, we couldn't do the important work that we do without the support of community partners. This year we'll be honoring **Ron Shoop** from **Random House** with our Margaret Leshar Award.

Please call (925) 927-3250 by August 28 to let us know if you (and any guests) will be attending.

HANDS-ON LEARNING: A TUTOR WORKSHOP

Need new strategies for helping students practice skills in a fun and interesting way? Join us!



We will be looking at new materials available through PSC. These hands-on manipulatives are especially helpful for engaging all learning styles. Skills covered include phonics, spelling rules, capitalization, vocabulary, punctuation, grammar, and more.

Location: PSC Pleasant Hill

Day: Thursday, September 11

Time: 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. or 6 – 8 p.m.

Space is limited to ten tutors in each session.

Registration opens on August 4. To register or to find out more information, call (925) 927-3250.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, September 29

12:30 - 2 p.m.

PSC Pleasant Hill



Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry (132 pages, 3 CDs)

PSC's Pleasant Hill Book Club will meet to talk about *Number the Stars*. Brave, ten-year old Annemarie goes on a dangerous mission in 1943 Denmark to save her best friend from the Nazis. Call or stop by the office in August to get the book and audio CD of the story, and come to the September 29th meeting to talk it over with PSC friends. Students of all levels welcome. Great for building confidence, reading comprehension and conversation skills, and sparking a love of reading. Give it a try!

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Chloe T. – *Strong Medicine*,
Charlotte's Web

Ana C. – *Number the Stars*

Danny W. – *Crime and Punishment*



A big thanks to **Nadya K.** and her tutor Carolyn Thiessen, and to **Mindy W.** and her tutor Neil Konkell for speaking to our new tutors at our April training. You were truly inspiring!

Way to go, **Ehte A.** and **Parvin M.**! According to their tutor Jane Copps, Ehte and Parvin have both learned how to search for items on EBay. Parvin also recently signed up for a library card and registered to vote!

Congratulations, **Hassan M.**! His tutor, Jim Riley, reports that Hassan had an interview for a part-time math teacher position. That's wonderful news!

Not only did **Wenman L.** complete the Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI) recently, but she also got a job according to her tutor, John Sindzinski. Way to go!

Danny W. participated in ALLI, too. A year after graduating from ALLI, he acted as a facilitator at this year's conference. What a tremendous achievement!

With tutor Marcia Farrar's help, **Salima E.** got her library card and promptly checked out four books. Fantastic!

Tutor Linda Lang proudly shared that **Oscar H.** earned computer independence certification. Great news!

Hooray! Kathy Cook's student, **Lily L.**, passed the written driver's test.

Work completed:

Elaine W. with Tammie Nichols – *Wilson Step 1*

Sandra S. with Vicky DeYoung – *Wilson Step 1*

Regina W. with Kay Sasek – *Words 1*

Jahanshir M. with Bettina Domingue – *Endeavor 3*

Maryam G. with Kathy Bishop – *Endeavor 4*

Esmat M. with Marilyn Lloyd – *Challenger 4*
Steven F. with Arlene Mornick – *Wilson Step 5*
Cecilia C. with Eileen Mascaro – *Challenger 6*
Danny W. with Lynn Jones – *Wilson Step 6*
Kenny C. with Cristine Hilsinger – *Wilson Step 11*
Jacob B. with Sue Klingman – *Wilson Steps 11 & 12!*



Welcome New Tutors!

Asako Jackson
Bob Douglas
Gail Chesler
Jeffrey Hershey

Kevin Lee
Liz Baker
Nadya Hosein
Robert Stegall



In Memoriam: PSC has lost a dear friend. Irene McShea, long-time tutor and ESL Conversation Group assistant, passed away on May 23, 2014. Irene will be greatly missed.



Antioch Library/PSC Hours Reduced

Due to the City of Antioch budget cuts, the Antioch Library's hours are reduced from 35 to 28 hours per week, starting July 1, 2014. New library and PSC hours:

Sunday/Monday/Friday: Closed

Tuesday: 1-8 p.m.

Wednesday/Thursday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday: 12-5 p.m.



Tutoring Rooms?

Library meeting rooms for tutoring can be hard to find when and where you want them. Do you know of non-library meeting rooms appropriate for tutoring (quiet, but public) in your community? We'd like to develop a list of options in addition to libraries (e.g. specific hotel or sport club lobbies, faith organization offices, etc.). Please email us the name, address, and phone number of your suggestion, what hours the room(s) would be available, and anything else we should know about it: pqc@ccclib.org.



Thank you **Fremont Bank Foundation** for your extremely generous grant of \$10,000 to Project Second Chance. You are an amazing community partner, and we are so grateful!

Tutor Tips



Summer, a Time to Read

by Karin

Summer brings long, lazy days and, for some of us, vacations and time off from tutoring. Breaks are great for recharging, and many come back to tutoring with renewed energy and commitment. But students can keep reading even if they aren't formally meeting with their tutor. Discover the joy of reading – words are all around you!

On vacation: Can you read the silly T-shirts in the souvenir shops? Tourist information? Travel guides? Airport signs? Maps? Write a postcard! Keep a journal! Take photos and write captions!

Read to a child: Discover children's literature and the stories you may have missed as a child. Don't have a child (or a *patient* child)? Read to your pet! Your pet will never correct you and loves the attention.

Join the Library's Summer Reading Program: Speaking of pets, check out the library's summer reading program, *Paws to Read*.

Find fun apps on your iPad or tablet: Some of the apps which have been popular with students are: *Phonics Genius*, *Spelling City*, *Nutrition Quiz*, *Cool Facts*, *Spot the Difference*, and a speech-to-text app, *Dragon Dictation*. (Note: not all apps run on all tablets.)

Check out websites on your computer: *TV411.org*, *Lemons for Literacy*, *vocabulary.co.il*, *spelling city.com*, *awesomestories.com*, *vocabulary.com*, and *gcflearnfree.org*.

Do something new:

- Play a board game with your kids
- Do a crossword or word search
- Read a recipe for a new summer dish
- Visit a museum (Get free and low cost tickets to Bay Area venues with your CCC Library card.)
- Read a how-to guide for a new hobby

The list is endless. Be creative. Be fearless. Take a leap and surprise yourself!



Families for Literacy

Visit Your Local Library

by Veronica

The tutor tip, *Summer, a Time to Read*, lists several ways you can become involved in reading this summer. If you want to focus on connecting a child in your care with reading, try some of the library activities listed below. I bet you will have as much fun as the child!

1. **Find out when *Storytime* activities take place.** The librarian might sing songs, do finger plays, read stories and have other special activities planned. The group atmosphere is always interactive and fun!
2. **Ask a librarian how to use an *Early Literacy Station*.** Each station has educational programs installed that engage children with pre-reading, reading, writing, math, or keyboarding activities. These stations are appropriate for children, 2-10 years of age. (The stations are not at all branches.)
3. **Locate, read, and listen to stories on the computer.** The children's online catalog provides links to –
 - **Book lists** by grade level and by age.
 - **Award Winner**, Newbery, and Caldecott book selections.
 - The **TumbleBook Library**, which includes animated talking picture books, puzzles, and games.
 - **Story Podcasts** created by librarians in our county. There are podcasts for young and older children. The young children can enjoy nursery rhymes and short stories; the older children may listen to longer selections divided into weekly chapters.
 - **Websites** that provide a connection to fun and games, memory games, coloring pages, spelling, and word catch.

There's so much to discover in the library. Check it out!