



# NEWSLETTER

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## September/October 2014

### *A Letter from Laura*

I have so many amazing events to tell you about, all of which will benefit Project Second Chance! Here goes...

**Benvenuti Book Lovers!** Mark your calendar for an **Italian-themed Book Lovers' Forum by Ron Shoop** of Penguin Random House. The books will include fiction, food, travel – all things Italian! The event will be held in the Concord Library (2900 Salvio Street) on **Monday, September 22 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.** It is free and open to the public. There will be a free raffle for a wonderful bag of books. If you are new to Book Lovers' Forums, Ron gives a brief recap of 12 – 15 book titles. If any of the titles pique your interest, a local bookstore will be on hand to sell the books and donate a percentage of book sales to PSC. What a win-win! Salute!!

And if that's not enough excitement, join us for *An Evening of Mystery*, featuring authors **Cara Black, Laurie R. King, and Terry Shames!** The event will be on **Thursday, October 9 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Oak View room of the Walnut Creek Library.** The evening will include a lively presentation by the mystery writers, including Q&A; book sales and signings; light desserts; and a raffle of books, handmade quilts, and much more. Tickets are \$15, and all proceeds benefit Project Second Chance. Send a check payable to Project Second Chance, Inc., 1750 Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 or for payment by credit card, call (510) 918-4768. Questions? Call the Project Second Chance office at (925) 927-3250.

Finally, **Calling All Pizza Lovers!!** On **Tuesday, October 21, Patxi's Pizza in Lafayette**, will donate 10% of all sales, all day to Project Second Chance. This applies to eat-in, carry-out, ready-to-bake, gift cards, and delivery. So head over to Patxi's and "Enjoy a Slice for Literacy!" Patxi's is located at 3577 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Thanks so much for your support!



Looking for an interesting lesson project for September? It's not too late to sign up for the next **PSC Book Discussion!** If you can come to PSC-Pleasant Hill on **Monday,**

**September 29, 12:30-2**, then ask us *now* for the print and audio CD versions of *Number the Stars*, a short, award-winning historical fiction book. Read it in tutoring lessons, then come to talk with PSC friends about it on September 29.

### ESL TUTOR SUPPORT

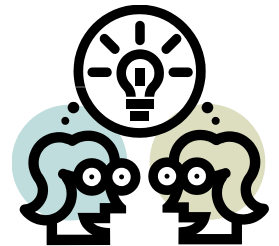
#### Annual Meeting for ESL Tutors

PSC Pleasant Hill

11-12:30 *or* 2:30-4 (pick one)

Monday, October 27

RSVP by Wednesday, October 22



Come gather with fellow ESL tutors and PSC staff for:

- 1) a short presentation of a reading comprehension teaching strategy called "Think Aloud" that you can show your student so they can become more independent readers; and
- 2) an open discussion about tutoring issues you may be having and how to get the most out of your tutoring sessions.

### **Where do you meet for lessons?**

Please remember that lessons need to be held in public places, such as a library, coffee shop, or book store. Meeting in a private home may not be counted on your calendars as PSC lessons.



# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:



Students are reading:

**Hilda A.** – *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*

**Faina G.** – *Love Among the Haystacks*

**Chloe T.** – *Call of the Wild, Gold Rush Trail, & Hunger Games*

While on vacation this summer, **Rosa R.** kept a travel log for the first time. What a great skill to have for all her future travels!

**Faina G.** wrote a letter to the Walnut Creek City Hall with the help of tutor Brenda H. Way to get involved!

**Ike E.** self-published a book of poetry, *A Journey from Illiteracy to Poetry*. He read several of his favorite poems at the July Library Commission meeting, where he was enthusiastically received. He is grateful for the long time help of his tutor, Helen Bayer. What an accomplishment!

According to tutor Geneva Henry, **Richard M.** got his library card. That's wonderful!

Wonderful news! **Parvin M.** voted for the first time in the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary Election. Both Parvin and her tutor, Jane Copps, should be proud!

With the help of tutor Jane Copps, **Ehte A.** has learned about stocks and even set up a portfolio in Google Finance. Impressive!

Marilyn Lloyd shared that **Esmat M.** has been enjoying short biographies and a book about the Silk Road that they checked out of the library. What a wonderful example of lifelong learning!

Congratulations, **Maria O.**! Tutor Hank Fesler proudly reports that Maria passed an insurance exam. Fantastic!

## Work completed:

**Tina S.** with Amber Avelino – *Wilson Step 1*

**Daniel K.** with Roxanne Sue – *Megawords 1*

**Simon P.** with Cathleen Slaga – *What a World 2*

**Oscar H.** with Linda Lang – *Endeavor 4*

**Maryam G.** with Kathy Bishop – *Endeavor 5*

**Yolanda M.** with Joan Benjamin – *Wilson Step 5*



Do you love tutoring with PSC? We hope so! Please tell friends and family about your experience tutoring and direct them to our office or website to learn more about joining the program. New Tutor Training starts Wednesday, September 17!



## **Free Dictionaries**

PSC can offer any PSC student a free dictionary to help with reading, writing, and spelling. **Concord-Diablo Rotary Club** has generously collected new and like-new dictionaries for us. They say "Children's Dictionary," but that just means they have large print, pictures, and clear definitions. Perfect! Get one at our September 4 Recognition Event, or call/email us for one anytime.



## **Hands-On Learning Tutor Workshop: Seats Are Still Available**

Date: Thursday, September 11

Time: 12:30-2:30 p.m. OR 6-8 p.m. (You choose!)

Location: PSC, Pleasant Hill

Tutors will have the chance to learn about multi-sensory materials available at the PSC office that can help students master phonics, grammar, vocabulary, and more!

Please reserve a seat today by calling (925) 927-3250.



## **Extra! Extra! Read All About It!**

With the generous support of the **Pleasant Hill Community Foundation**, PSC is excited to offer a workshop series for students and their tutors.

This six-week workshop series will help intermediate and advanced PSC students learn about the sections of the newspaper, parts of newspaper articles, headlines, obituaries, ads, book reviews, and more!

Dates: Thursdays, October 30 – December 11

No class on Thanksgiving

Time: 12:30-2 p.m.

Location: Pleasant Hill, PSC office

Please call (925) 927-3250 to let us know you are coming. Space is limited.

# Tutor Tips



## World Series Lessons

by Kate

What does the World Series have to do with practicing sight words and new phonics rules?

Way back in new tutor training, do you remember watching a video of former staff-member Kathie playing *word card games* with student Doug? Doug dictated a story about his fishing trip to Alaska, then he and Kathie wrote on small cards those words from the story that reinforced rules he was learning. Then they played.

Kathie could make a game out of almost anything, and you can too. Here are some ideas for playing word card games on a timely topic – baseball.

1. On separate 3x5 or smaller cards, write the name of each Major League Baseball team and each city they represent (e.g. “San Francisco” on one card, “Giants” on another).
2. Any new vocabulary words? What’s a Cardinal?
3. Note the capitalizations used in city and team names. Why? (proper nouns)
4. Mark the cards with your student: a) Are there any digraphs (e.g. /sh/ or /ch/)? Draw a heart around them because they go together. b) Are there any silent-e’s or other silent letters? Put a light slash through them. c) Are there any compound words? Underline each part separately.
5. Sort the cards into two piles: one for names with silent letters, one for words with none.
6. Shuffle the cards and spread them face down for a game of “Concentration.” Team name and city name are a match.
7. Alphabetize the team names. Alphabetize the city names.
8. Place the city names face down in a pile. Take turns drawing one and finding it on a U.S. map. Is the city that state’s capital (usually marked on maps with a star)? Talk about what you each know about the city or state.

Feel free to adapt these games for other topics of interest to your student:

- Names of workmates / Job titles
- Television shows or movies / Actor names
- Countries / Languages
- Fruits and Vegetables / Colors



## PSC Service on Tuesday Evenings

We recently made a change to the Tuesday hours at our Pleasant Hill office for security reasons. With the change, the PSC office at 75 Santa Barbara Road is now open from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pairs can still meet in the Pleasant Hill Library until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, and a staff member is available for assistance by appointment from the PSC Computer Learning Center (located in the Pleasant Hill Library).



## GED Ready?

By Veronica

In January 2014, a new GED exam came into effect. There are major changes between the previous GED and the new version. One change requires students to know how to use a computer. The paper and pencil model is no longer available.

As a result, students need to have mouse, keyboarding, and general computer skills in order to work through the exam efficiently. Here’s a quick look at what is required:

### Mouse skills:

- Move a mouse
- Click, double-click and right click
- Drag and drop
- Scroll
- Highlight text
- Cut and paste
- Select check boxes

### Keyboarding skills:

- Touch typing
- Numbers and symbols
- Accuracy
- Speed

### General computer skills:

- Turn a computer and monitor on and off
- Log on to a computer
- Identify icons on a desktop

PSC does not have a computerized version of the GED practice test, but we do have access to free web resources for practicing mouse and keyboarding skills. When you’re ready to get started, come visit us in the lab!