



NEWSLETTER

☎ Central (925) 927-3250 ☎ East (925) 754-8317 ☐
☎ West (510) 527-7558 ☐ ☎ FAX (925) 646-6461
ccclib.org/psc

January/February 2017

Happy New Year!

A Letter from Laura

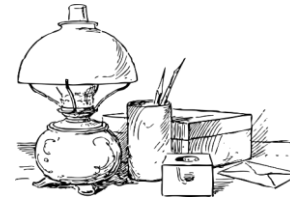
Happy New Year! The Project Second Chance team wishes you and your family the happiest of new years.

Our Pleasant Hill team is thrilled to be starting the year in our new office space in the Pleasant Hill Library. Hopefully those of you who tutor in Pleasant Hill have had a chance to tour our new office and see the array of tutoring spaces available to you. While we don't have as many private rooms at your disposal, there are still many places for our wonderful pairs to meet. If you and your student were not able to attend one of our Open House office tours, please call us at (925) 927-3250 to get your PSC ID card. The ID card simply affirms to the Pleasant Hill Library staff that you may have access to the staff area of the library where the new PSC office is. Please keep the card with you when you conduct your lessons in Pleasant Hill.

A big thanks to tutor **Vicky DeYoung** for arranging for our "new to us" donated furniture. In addition to celebrating the new year, we are also celebrating our new motorized desks, which are quite an improvement from our vintage 1950's desks. Stop by for a demonstration and to see why we're so excited!

But enough about our new Pleasant Hill office (see page 2 for more information) and desks. The new year is also a time to thank all of you for everything you accomplished in 2016 and to encourage you to continue to reach for the stars in 2017. In the words of Harriet Tubman, *"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."*

- Laura



EASY JOURNALING: **A Workshop for Students & Tutors**

Tuesday, January 10, 5:30-7 p.m. *or*
Wednesday, January 11, 10-11:30 a.m.

Pleasant Hill Library – Public Meeting Room
RSVP by Wednesday, January 4 at 925-927-3250

Writers of all levels can start a journal. In addition to free-form diaries, there are also guided journals with simple one-word-per-day formats, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer prompts, and more. What they all have in common is an invitation to write freely with no fear of mistakes or judgment. Come see sample journals and discover what feels right for you. This workshop is good for:

- writers of any level (beginners welcome!)
- anyone wanting to get more comfortable writing
- students wanting to write life stories
- tutors looking for writing ideas for their students

ESL Tutor Support Meeting (for tutors only)

Wednesday, March 1, 2:30-4 p.m.
or Thursday, March 2, 9:30-11 a.m.
Pleasant Hill Library – Public Meeting Room
RSVP by Wednesday, February 22 at 925-927-3250

Come talk with staff and fellow tutors about questions you may have about your tutoring sessions. This is a great time to meet each other and share resources, challenges, and successes.



Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Chi won S. – *Flying Against the Wind*
Farida M. – *Secret Garden*
Ferozan M. – *Tom Sawyer*
Richard W. – *The Great Gatsby*
Tina K. – *Charlotte's Web* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*



Congratulations, **Lucia L.**! After reviewing the many state propositions with her tutor, Nancy Glenfield, Lucia voted for the first time as a U.S. Citizen. How exciting!

According to tutor Jane Copps, **Ehte A.** helped her family members with their ballots for this past election. That's a wonderful accomplishment!

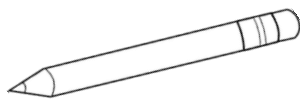
Vance C. has started to complete crossword puzzles from *News for You* under the guidance of her tutor, Claudia Lewis. Have fun!

Tutor Nivedita Krishnaswami was proud to report that **Amy Z.** has written a two page travelogue about her trip to Italy. Well done!

Work completed:

Manny N. with Donna Luckey – *Words 1*
Alma S. with April O'Dea – *Wordly Wise 6*
Carol W. with Colleen Brown – *Wilson Step 7*
Steven F. with Arlene Mornick – *Wilson Step 9*

Student Writing



We'd love for this year's book of student writings, *In Our Words*, to have something by *you* in it. It could be something you've already written or something new that you can finish by the due date of May 31: a short journal entry, letter, recipe, or poem; or maybe a story about an experience, person, or observation you want to share. Students may submit up to three writings, each no more than 400 words. It's not too early to turn something in now! (We will ask you to sign a release form.)

The New Pleasant Hill PSC Office

Entrances

The new office has two entrances:

1. If you are coming to the office before the Pleasant Hill Library is open, please use the door by the parking lot accessed from the service road by the old office on Santa Barbara Road.

2. When the Library is open, park in the front lot on Oak Park Boulevard, and use the Library's main entry. The Pleasant Hill Library opens at noon on Mondays, 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 10 a.m. on Fridays.

Hours

PSC has new office hours as well as a new office. We are now open on Tuesday evenings until 7:30 p.m. For any other week day, our office hours are the same, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are no longer open on Thursday nights.

Due to the change in our evening hours, Kate's schedule has changed. She now works Tuesdays from 1:30 – 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. All other staff schedules remain the same.

Rooms

Since we now have limited access to private tutoring rooms, we have developed a new policy regarding room reservation at Pleasant Hill. To reserve a room, you need to call any time after 8:30 a.m. on the day you need the room. If a room is available, we will let you know which one you have been assigned. Please don't take a room without letting us know; it may be reserved for a staff member or another pair. It is important we know which room you are using for several reasons, one of which is to help us make the case that private tutoring space is needed in future libraries. You do *not* need to tell us if you're using one of the two tables reserved for PSC pairs in the upstairs mezzanine – just help yourselves to those.

If you have questions, call us at (925) 927-3250. Thank you for your patience as we adjust to our new set up!



Tutor Tip



Encouraging Family Literacy

by Kate

Does your student have young children or grandchildren who live nearby? Your job is to tutor the adult student, not the child, but often PSC students' goals include those related to their role as a parent or caregiver, including teaching a child to read and reading bedtime stories.



This Tutor Tip focuses on programs and services that PSC and the Library offer that could help your student nurture a young child's love of reading and learning. Would your student like to take advantage of any of these resources?

PSC Resources:

Birthday Books - If your student has or cares for a child or grandchild eleven years or younger, PSC provides a free birthday book. You first read it with the student, then the student takes it home to read to the child. Please let us know if your student has not been getting these.

Goals Tips - Ask for PSC tips sheets for child-related literacy goals such as: share a book with a child; take children to story time; or interact with school/teachers.

Library Resources:

Story Time - The Library offers a variety of children's programs and story times, often with ample chances for both children and parents to interact. Each library hosts weekly staff-led story times, customized for different ages. Many include singing, instruments, and movement; all are a whale of a good time. Check ccclib.org for the schedule.

Early Literacy - In addition to huge collections of books, music, and movies to check out, there is general information about early literacy, including getting children ready to read, children's book recommendations, and more at <http://guides.ccclib.org/earlyliteracy>.

Early Literacy Toys - Many of the libraries offer early literacy toys, such as interactive play cubes and puzzles.

We love it when families hang out at the library together to relax, read books, and play.

Children's Librarians - These human gems are a wealth of information about age-appropriate books, CDs, and movies; how to find things in the children's section and events calendar; early literacy programs in the community; and more. Ask for the children's librarian at your library and introduce yourself!

Computer Lab News



As we all adjust to the new year and new Pleasant Hill office, changes in the computer lab are afoot. Since we've lost the tutoring rooms connected to our previous office, we're co-opting the Pleasant Hill computer lab as a tutoring space for pairs. There will potentially be two pairs using the lab at a time – one on either side of the partition.

What does this mean for lab students? The computer lab will continue to be open for drop-in use during regular times. During these hours, students (and tutors) will only be using the lab for computer-related learning.

If you're a pair coming for tutoring and we place you in the lab for the first time, welcome! Consider using websites, software, or podcasts to shake up your usual lesson. See Maya for more details.

West County Corner

Here in Hercules, we've received some new books that pairs might find interesting.

For students who speak English as a second language, we've got several new vocabulary text books, such as *Everyday Living Words* and *Essential ESL Dictionary*.

If it's time to tackle writing, pick up *The Paragraph Book 1: Writing the How-to Paragraph* or *The Paragraph Book 2: Writing the Paragraph that Tells a Story*. Other titles such as *Talk and Write!* and *Practice Makes Perfect: English Verbs* also serve as great resources if you need help getting started or are stuck on the technicalities of grammar.

If any of these titles sound appealing, please don't hesitate to call or email Maya to get a hold of one. You might be the first to review the book!