



NEWSLETTER

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November/December 2017

A Letter from Laura

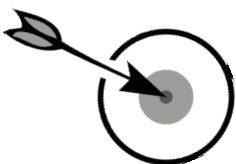
Happy Holidays! The Project Second Chance (PSC) team wishes you and yours a safe and joyful holiday.

If the holiday season involves sitting in front of a cozy fireplace reading a good book or buying a book for a loved one, then you're in luck! **Angie Cozad from Real Books** will be at the **Pleasant Hill Library on Tuesday, November 14 from 6:30–8 p.m.** to discuss her favorite books for your reading pleasure. Her recommendations are sure to delight you. Angie will be on hand after the event to sell any books that you'd like to take home with you.

As always, the event will be free and will feature a free raffle for a bag of books. Who doesn't love free books?! Please tell your friends and come join us!

Aside from books, the holiday season is also a time to reflect on the year and all we have to be thankful for. In that vein, I would like to thank all of you for your many contributions to PSC. Whether you are a tutor, student, or friend of PSC, you make an invaluable contribution to our community. Thank you!

- *Laura*



GOALS FORMS

We're approaching the end of the July - December goals period, a time when pairs have a chance to discuss what progress has been made towards life skill literacy goals set for the period and to set new goals for the next period, January-June 2018. Central and East County tutors, watch your mail for the forms to be completed by the end of January. Laura H. will contact West County tutors directly.

Hands-On Learning Workshop for Tutors



Friday, December 1, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
or Tuesday, December 5, 6–8 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Library—Public Meeting Room

Looking for tactile activities to help your student understand and practice certain skills? PSC is offering a workshop that introduces tutors to various hands-on materials that target a variety of skills: phonics, spelling, vocabulary, punctuation, and more. There are limited seats in each class, so call to save your spot in one of the sessions (not both).

Last Chance for Student Support Group

Former PSC student Martha will be holding one more session of her student support group before the end of 2017. Students, here's your chance to speak to others who are on a similar literacy journey. Come for a casual chat with Martha.

Thursday, November 2, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library—Room A. No RSVP needed.



Welcome New Tutors

Arielle Madnick	Cheri Lamb
Daphne Kermin	Diane Chamberlin
Dominik Kramarz	Gail Marshall
Grant Pflingsten	Julia Kitay
Julian Roca	Kathie Whitehead
Lynda Phelps	Nancy Hartman
Patricia Maughan	Roshan Rama
Ruth Davis	Sarah Goer
Sarah Levin	Sheida Otmishi
Valerie Thurston	Yvonne Bent

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Chi won S.—*Clementine*

Ehte A. —*Funny in Farsi*

Parvin M.—*Funny in Farsi*

According to tutor Susie Thompson, **Bernard B.** can now read the teleprompter that runs along the bottom of the TV news broadcast. How exciting!

Many thanks go to speakers **Mayra V.** and Sandy Stright for speaking at PSC’s Annual Recognition Event and to **Richard W.** for speaking at the PSC fundraiser, *Men of Mystery*. All three did a stellar job!

Tutor Marc Hanson reports that **Young N.** has finished reading *Life of Pi*, her first novel in English at 319 pages. Congrats, Young!

ESL Conversation



The Library *ESL Conversation for Adults* classes can reinforce English Language Learners’ growing skills and help progress towards practical life goals. Free, drop-in ESL conversation classes are open to the public.

Antioch Library	Wednesdays, 12–1 p.m.
Dougherty Station Library	Mondays, 6:45–7:45 p.m.
El Cerrito Library	Tuesdays, 4:30–6 p.m.
Hercules Library	Mondays, 2–3 p.m.
Orinda Library	Thursdays, 1–2:30 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library	Wednesdays, 1:30–2:30 p.m.
San Pablo Library	Saturdays, 11:15–12:45 p.m.
San Ramon Library	Wednesdays, 11:30–12:30 p.m.
Walnut Creek Library	Thursdays, 2–3 p.m.

Work completed:

Lucia L. with Nancy Glenfield – *Three Little Words*

Long L. with Tracy McCrossin – *Voyager F*

Philip H. in the computer lab – *Lexia Level 2*

Olga N. with Edy Nicolini – *Endeavor 3*

Bernard B. with Susie Thompson – *Wilson Steps 3 & 4*

Gloria K. with Nichole Coggiola – *Endeavor 4*

Steve F. with Arlene Mornick – *Wilson Step 11*

Computer Lab News



If you’re looking for a way to add some sparkle to your lessons, come to PSC’s Computer Lab to explore our brand new iPads. While we are still featuring themed months to encourage specific skill building, you’re welcome in the lab any time we have drop in hours.

In **November**, we’ll be focusing specifically on **Grammar** and **Writing**. Stop by to use grammar or writing apps or websites.

This **December** is a great time to learn **life skills** and **social media**. If you find yourself wanting to reach out to family on Facebook or find new holiday recipes and decorations with Pinterest, the lab tutors can help. Remember, the lab is open to students and tutors, individuals or pairs.

A lab tutor is available during drop in hours:

Tuesday 10–11:30 a.m. and 6–7:30 p.m.

Wednesday 12–2 p.m.

Thursday 12–2 p.m.

Friday 9–11 a.m.

Featured App

Looking for a free app to help boost vocabulary while learning grammar rules? **Duolingo** is a free website and app available for Apple and Android users. Start by taking a quiz to assess your level; then, launch into fun activities to practice reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Tell us what you think!

Tutor Tip



“Tutoring” for Tutors by West County Laura

Tutors sometimes ask us for more training. These three websites have great resources for tutors to build up their skills, knowledge, and confidence:

CLLS: California Library Literacy Resources (<http://libraryliteracy.org/tutors/resources.html>)

This website has helpful YouTube videos of tutoring sessions focusing on common tutoring topics, such as phonemic awareness, reading comprehension, building vocabulary using signal words, oral reading strategies, and lots more. Watch and steal what you like! Are you looking for ways to teach to the goal you picked on your PSC goal sheet? Follow the “Roles & Goals Curriculum” link and find PDF lesson ideas to fulfill each goal.

Proliteracy.org’s Education Network: (<https://www.proliteracy.org/Professional-Development/Education-Network>)

Proliteracy.org has compiled resources from all over the literacy world. You can find everything from videos on decoding to online interactive lessons to professional papers and articles. You’ll need to sign up for a free account and then “request” the video or document you’d like to view and have it added to your “transcript” page. From there, choose “Launch” to watch or view the material. It’s a bit of a clunky website, but the content is worth your effort.

LINCS: Library Information and Communication System (<https://lincs.ed.gov/>)

LINCS is under the U.S. Department of Education. Through its Learning Portal (click the link on the upper right), you can sign up for access to a variety of short online courses that you can work through at your leisure. Look for ELL classes, like “Teaching Emergent Readers,” or Learning Disability classes, like “Professional’s Guide to Educating Adults,” or

Teacher Effectiveness classes, like “Motivating Adult Learners to Persist.”

If you find anything super helpful, share. Happy tutoring!

West County Corner

There’s lots going on in West County!



The PSC office in the San Pablo

Community Library is now officially open Monday–Wednesday during library hours, and it is beautiful! Most of the West County PSC study materials now live in San Pablo, but there is at least one copy of everything in Hercules. Stop by either office any time to browse, get help, or just say “hi.”

In addition to the computer lab in Hercules, West County now has an **iPad loaded with helpful apps** on everything from spelling to phonemic awareness to writing. It’s a fun and easy way to learn. The iPad is available for students and/or their tutors to use in San Pablo during library hours, Monday–Wednesday. Stop by to check it out from me (West County Laura) or schedule an appointment, and I’ll guide you on its usage and help you find some interesting apps to work with.

Last but not least—back by demand...

West County Book Club

Thursday, January 11, 2018, 2:30–4 p.m.
Hercules Library, Large Conference Room

***The Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez** (128 pages; 3-hour CD)

Read or listen to this boy’s engaging, true story of a family of undocumented immigrants from Mexico working as migrant workers in California. Read the book and/or listen to the audio CDs, then come to the meeting for a friendly small-group chat with PSC friends about the story. Tutors are welcome to come with their student. Ask for the book and CDs now from West County Laura: lhydeman@ccplib.org or 510-307-9937.