



# NEWSLETTER

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## March/April 2015

### *A Letter from Laura*

I have exciting news to share with you! Project Second Chance, Inc., our fundraising and advocacy arm, has a new blog to keep you updated on upcoming activities, articles of interest, student stories, and much more. It also provides an easy way to donate to Project Second Chance if you wish. We hope you will go to [www.pscfundraising.org](http://www.pscfundraising.org) and check it out. We'd love your feedback, so please take a moment to comment on any articles you like or would like more of.

Also, do you have a story, teaching technique, reading material, or anything else you think the PSC community would enjoy? Please email it to [admin@pscfundraising.org](mailto:admin@pscfundraising.org) and we will review it for posting. Here's your chance to help shape our blog!

In other news, Ron Shoop from Penguin Random House, will be back this spring with two – count 'em – *two* Book Club Forums. The first will be held on Wednesday, March 25 at the Ygnacio Valley Library from 6:30 – 8 p.m. and will feature “Ron's Reviews of Authors' Debuts!” For those of you who responded to our query about potential Book Club Forum themes, we heard you loud and clear, and the second event will focus on Historical Fiction. It will be Thursday, May 7 at the Concord Library from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public. And, as always, there will be a free raffle for a bag of books and a bookseller will be on hand to sell the titles and donate a percentage of the proceeds to Project Second Chance.

Thank you so much for your support of Project Second Chance. We couldn't do the important work we do without each one of you.

- *Laura*

### Tutor Workshop: Goal Setting

Thursday, March 12, 6 – 8 p.m. *or*  
Wednesday, March 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Pleasant Hill, PSC Office



Would you like to review how best to help your student reach a life-skill goal? Then this workshop is for you!

At this workshop, we will discuss how to determine a student's long-term goals, how to break those goals into achievable steps, and brainstorm interesting activities to help students make progress. We will also be previewing a **new goals form**, which will be used this coming spring. And thank you in advance for helping us pilot a new section of training!

RSVP at (925) 927-3250 before Tuesday, March 10.

### WANTED:

#### Student Writing



Now's the time to write something for *In Our Words*, PSC's annual book of student writing. Students may submit 1-3 stories that are no more than 400 words each. Writing does *not* need to be perfect! Very short pieces from reluctant writers are especially welcome. Submissions are due May 29. Write about anything you want, but here are a few ideas:

- *Why you came to PSC and what you've learned*
- *Someone or something you are grateful for*
- *An interesting experience, movie, or book*
- *What it was like to come to America*
- *A recipe or custom that is special to you*
- *Describe yourself*
- *Something scary or funny or awful or beautiful*
- *Anything else you want to share!*

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:

Students are reading:

**Faina G.** - *Lily*

**PH Book Club** – *Bud, Not Buddy*

How exciting! According to tutor Donna Luckey, **Manny N.** is starting to read instructions and restaurant menus independently.

**Tierra J.** worked with her tutor, Celia Lawson, to create a Thanksgiving acrostic for the PSC, Inc. blog, providing a service and a lesson at the same time. Thank you!

Great work, **Jahan M.!** With the help of his tutor Bettina Domingue, Jahan completed his first résumé.

Thank you to our tutor-student pairs who spoke to our new tutor training class in January. Both **Sandra S.** with her tutor Vicky DeYoung, and **Vicky D.** with her tutor Cynthia Ding, did a wonderful job describing their experience with PSC. We appreciate it!

Congratulations to **Cynthia S.!** Under the guidance of her tutor, Susan Couch, Cynthia has become a new U.S. citizen.

Louise McGuire reports that **Mahsima M.** has started checking out children's books from the library for reading practice. What a great new habit!

## Work completed:

**James W.** with Eileen Seeburger – *Wilson Step 1*

**Julie C.** with Mary Ann Knets – *Challenger 1*

**Esmat M.** with Marilyn Lloyd – *Wordly Wise 3*

**Nobuo S.** with Sandi Gritzer – *Endeavor 4*

**Art T.** with Penny Snyder – *Wilson Step 5*

**Antonio P.** with Cristine Hilsinger – *Wilson Step 6*

**Danny W.** with Sue Klingman – *Wilson Step 7*



PSC begins our next New Tutor Training class on April 22. Registration opens March 11. We need tutors - tell your friends!



## Book Discussion

Monday, April 6  
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Pleasant Hill



Staff will lead a friendly discussion on *Bud, Not Buddy*, a Newberry Medal winner by Christopher Paul Curtis. Entertaining and educational, this historical fiction story touches on race relations, poverty, jazz, and labor during the Great Depression. Tutors are welcome to join their student at the meeting, but are not required to attend.

1. Get the audio and/or book from PSC *now*.
2. Listen and/or read the story before the meeting.
3. Come to the meeting to chat about it.



## New Tutors

April O'Dea

Chuck Legge

Dorothy Walker

Forrest Beaty

Iasha Godwin

Jean Mock

Jennifer McWatters

Linda Williams

Lou Flores

Prince Ibe

Sally Paris

Sandy Stright

Susan Kimmel

Carol Overland

David Foulds

Elisabeth Lehrner

Grace Jorge

Janet Wiggins

Jeff Eaton

Judy Zeichner

Lisa Cline

Marvin Brandon

Rosemary McKay

Sandy Blasingame

Sarah Muren

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## Hands-On Learning Workshop *For Tutors Only*

Thursday, May 7

Time options: 2:30-4:30 p.m. or 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Pleasant Hill PSC office

Learn about hands-on learning materials that are perfect for the kinesthetic/tactile learner. There will be materials on topics across the board, from phonics to grammar to comprehension.

Registration is required and opens on Monday, March 16.

# Tutor Tips



## How Do You Say “ed”?

by Karin

Did you ever notice that when you add the suffix “ed” to the end of a word, sometimes we say it /t/, sometimes /d/, and sometimes it adds a whole new syllable to the word? Some students have no trouble when reading these words – they instinctively say it correctly. Other students need a direct explanation. So for those of you wondering, here it is. It’s all in the last sound of the word before you add the “ed” suffix.

SAY suffix “ed” as:	When the Baseword Ends with:	For Example:
Another syllable - /id/	/t/ or /d/ sound	hunt <u>ed</u> + ed = /hŭn tid/ bend <u>ed</u> + ed = /bĕn did/
/t/ (voiceless)	Any voiceless sound: /f, k, p, s, sh, x, ch/	buff <u>ed</u> + ed = /bŭft/ lack <u>ed</u> + ed = /lăkt/ map <u>ed</u> + ed = /măpt/ dance <u>ed</u> + ed = /dănst/ wish <u>ed</u> + ed = /wĭst/ match <u>ed</u> + ed = /măcht/
/d/ (voiced)	All other sounds, including vowels	judge <u>ed</u> + ed = /jŭjd/ call <u>ed</u> + ed = /kald/ wave <u>ed</u> + ed = /wăvd/ play <u>ed</u> + ed = /plăd/ buzz <u>ed</u> + ed = /bŭzd/

Reason: It’s harder for your throat muscles to change between voiced and voiceless and vice versa, so it likes to stay in the same mode:

voiced → voiced or voiceless → voiceless

For a review of “voiced” and “voiceless,” see your Tutor Resource Manual, p. 27 (most editions).



## April 12 – 18 is National Volunteer Week

Thank you to our beloved volunteers who give of their time to help adults read, write, and spell better. Each one of you is a community hero!



## West County Corner

By Veronica

The computer lab is evolving into a one-stop learning center at the Hercules Library. Students spend their lab time to –

- learn how to *decode* new words,
- practice *reading* fluently,
- *improve spelling* skills, and
- build *vocabulary* and *grammar skills*.

Most of the practice is done on the computer, but students also work one-on-one with the lab tutors at the back table. What a bonus!

There are other advantages of using the lab at the Hercules Library.

1. There is access to internet and email.
2. You can get tips on goals, such as reading a newspaper or writing a note to your child’s teacher, by using the interactive websites we’ve identified.
3. Reference materials, including web resources, are available.
4. The lab offers a quiet place to study at your own pace.

The Hercules Computer Lab is in a large room. There is plenty of room for you to join us to work on skills you want to improve. We are open to PSC students and tutors on Tuesday and/or Thursday from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

## FRIENDLY ROOM REMINDER:



To our many wonderful pairs meeting in Pleasant Hill, we love having you meet here. Please remember to put your tutoring appointments in the Room Reservation Book (or call or email us to do it for you) at least a day before your meeting. That makes it easier for us to plan where to put everyone during busy times. Thank you!