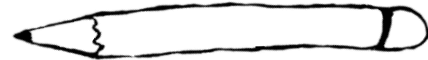




NEWSLETTER

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

May/June 2015



LAST CALL for Student Writing

PSC Students: Have you written a short letter, essay, poem, recipe, or something else recently? We'd love to put it in PSC's annual book of student writing - *In Our Words* - which will be distributed this summer. Your writing does NOT need to be perfect, but it DOES need to be no more than 400 words long and turned in to us by Friday, May 29.

A Letter from Laura

Life is like a camera.

- ◇ Focus on what's important,
- ◇ Capture the good times,
- ◇ Develop from the negatives,
- ◇ And if things don't work out,
- ◇ Take another shot!

- unknown author

I hope this makes you smile, but I also hope it speaks to you. From PSC students who are taking another "shot" at learning to read, to PSC tutors who are figuring out how to teach a new concept, we all need to embrace and celebrate the second chances we're given. Your willingness to step out in confidence and optimism is what Project Second Chance is all about. Thank you Project Second Chance students, tutors, and friends for being an inspiration to the community-at-large!

Thank you also to our faithful supporters. Chief among them is **Ron Shoop from Penguin Random House**. Ron has two Book Lovers Forums in the works:

- **Thursday, May 7** at the Concord Library from 6:30 – 8 p.m. The theme will be Historical Fiction.
- **Tuesday, July 14** at the Hercules Library from 6:30 – 8 p.m. No theme – just Ron's picks!

Both events are free and open to the public, and there will be a free raffle for a bag of books. Angie Cozad from Real Books will be there to sell any "must have" titles, and she will donate a percentage of the proceeds to Project Second Chance. Hope to see you there!

- *Laura*

TUTOR WORKSHOP To Stop or Not to Stop

Wednesday, June 17, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Pleasant Hill PSC Office
Please register by Wednesday, June 10



What are the various reasons pairs end? How do you know when it's time to refocus or to stop altogether? When do students "graduate" from PSC? How do you have this conversation with your student? Come talk with staff and other tutors about common signs that it may be time to stop and how to wrap up the tutoring relationship. Tutors whose matches have already ended are also welcome to come share their stories.

TUTOR WORKSHOP Hands-on Learning

Thursday, May 7
2:30-4:30 p.m. or 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Pleasant Hill PSC Office



Are you looking for tactile activities to help your student understand and practice certain skills? Join us on May 7 to look at various hands-on materials that target many different skills: phonics, spelling, writing, vocabulary, and more! Register now by calling (925) 927-3250. Space is limited to ten tutors per session.

Student Achievements

Success Stories:



Students are reading:

Cynthia S. – *Garden of the Evening Mist*

Way to go, **Ehte A.!** After learning about Google with her tutor, Jane Copps, Ehte used the search engine to find information about vision problems. Good work!

Fantastic news, **Vicky D.!** She passed the written DMV test for a license renewal. She credits the time she and her tutor Cynthia Ding spent on taking practice tests online.

Amy Wolf reported that not only did **Ying Q.** read *The Circuit* for PSC's Book Club, but she also wrote an essay on what she learned from the book. What a great way to interact with the book!

Faina G. successfully completed writing a personal story with the help of her tutor, Brenda Hanschen. We can't wait to read it!

After working hard on prepositions with her tutor, John Sindzinski, **Wenman L.** has written a story to share with PSC.

Thank you for speaking to our new tutors. **Ehte A.** with her tutor Jane Copps and **Elaine W.** with her tutor Tammie Nichols shared their PSC experiences with April's tutor training class. They did a great job!

Work completed:

Manny N. with Donna Luckey – *Troubleshooter 1*

Tierra J. with Celia Lawson – *Challenger 2*

James W. with Eileen Seeburger – *Wilson Step 2*

Sandra S. with Vicky DeYoung – *Wilson Step 3*

Carol W. with Colleen Brown – *Wilson Step 4*

Elaine W. with Tammie Nichols – *Wilson Step 4*

Yolanda M. with Joan Benjamin – *Wilson Step 6*

Nadya K. with Carolyn Thiessen – *Wordly Wise 5*

Maryam G. with Kathy Bishop – *Endeavor 7*

Pleasant Hill Book Discussion Group

We're taking a break for the summer. This is a great chance to visit the library to pick out a book or audio book to explore alone or with your tutor. The next Book Club meeting in Pleasant Hill will be on *Monday, August 31, 12:30 – 2 p.m.* Ask for the book and audio CD starting in late June. New participants are always welcome – we hope you'll give it a try!

PSC Student and Tutor Recognition Event

Wednesday, August 26
from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library



Mark your calendar for Wednesday, August 26 for the annual PSC Student and Tutor Recognition Event! We have so much to celebrate. We'll release our most recent book of student writings, *In Our Words*, we'll celebrate tutoring milestones, and we'll thank each and every one of Y-O-U for your participation in Project Second Chance. More to follow, but save the date now!

Reminder: No Children in PSC Lessons

Summer is almost here, and children will be out of school soon. Please remember that children should not accompany their parents to PSC lessons. It is simply too difficult for PSC students to concentrate on their lessons if they are overseeing their child at the same time.

When in the public library, Contra Costa County Library policy is that children under age eight must be under the direct supervision of someone at least fifteen years of age.

Thank you, and have a great summer!

Tutor Tips



Reading, Fingers & Fun

by Megan

Summer reading. For many people, those words hold the promise of relaxation and fun. But for many of our students, reading is hard work. It isn't relaxing and pleasurable, especially if the book chosen is too difficult. The Five Finger-Stop Rule can help your student find a book that he can read independently and will be more likely to enjoy.

Step 1: Help your student choose a book on a topic or theme of interest. We suggest looking in the children's or young adult sections of the library.

Step 2: Open the book to the middle.

Step 3: Have your student read aloud one page (or two if the print is large).

Step 4: As a pair, for each word that the student struggles with, either with meaning or decoding, hold up one finger.

Step 5: If five fingers are up before coming to the end of the one or two pages-stop, the book is likely too difficult for independent, pleasurable reading. If that is the case, start this process over again with a new book. However, if fewer than five fingers are up at the end, you've found a winner!

As your student has more experience with reading for fun, he may discover that his limit is actually eight fingers or that it is sooner at three fingers.

Reading Opportunity

The Library's adult summer reading program is back for 2015. Encourage your student to read a book for fun, write a brief response on a bookmark-sized entry form you can get from PSC or your library, and submit the form to PSC for inclusion in a raffle. Students should feel free to read as many books as they like – there is no limit on the number of entries. Ask staff for more details in June.

West County Corner

by Veronica

Book Club



The first West County Book Club discussion was led by tutor Arlene M. She is pictured above with Leticia, one of the book club participants. The group had an energetic yet thoughtful conversation about the book *Sarah, Plain and Tall*.

We've decided to read *Caleb's Story* next. It's the third book in the *Sarah, Plain and Tall* series. "Caleb is given the responsibility of writing down everything that happens on the farm now that his older sister Anna has gone to live in town to finish school. At first, he thinks there will be nothing to write about, but when an old man appears in the middle of winter, the family's quiet life is suddenly disrupted."

Interested? Well, check out Caleb's Story from the library or get the audio recording from the West County office to find out what happens in this story. This is a great book to read during the summer. We plan to have a book discussion in the fall. Stay tuned for the date and location!



Conversation about Dyslexia

- What: View the *Embracing Dyslexia* documentary film
- When: Thursday, June 25, 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
- Where: Hercules Library Computer Lab
- Next: Please RSVP no later than June 23