



NEWSLETTER

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ccclib.org/psc

January/February 2016 Happy New Year!

A Letter from Laura

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals. - Melody Beattie

Happy New Year!! The Project Second Chance (PSC) team hopes you had a delightful holiday and that you are eagerly anticipating 2016.

The new year is often a time when people reflect on the prior year and set goals for the coming year, so it is timely that we are asking PSC students to do just that. During the first week of January, we'll be sending a form to tutors and asking them to discuss goals with their students.

What literacy goals did your student meet in 2015?
→ Celebrate!

What does your student want to accomplish in 2016?
→ Write it down!

Many years ago, I had a manager who had two expressions that I remember (and quote!) to this day. The first was, *How do you know if you're winning?* Without specific goals committed to in writing, it's difficult to see and celebrate progress.

But what if your student wasn't able to achieve their goal(s)? That same manager would also say, *Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.* Take the time to recommit (if the goal is still relevant) and map the specific steps to making the goal a reality. After all, perseverance is a valuable lesson in and of itself!

Thank you for all you do to support PSC!

- Laura

Hello from Maya!

Growing up an avid reader, dreamer, and storyteller, I've always cherished the ability to seamlessly slip into another world. That's why joining Project Second Chance felt like a dream come true. I'm thrilled to be part of a team of kind, passionate people committed to learning. But more than that, I'm so grateful to glimpse all the new worlds within our wonderful students and tutors. In turn, I hope I can offer a gateway into the ever expanding universe of the written word.

One of my main responsibilities at PSC is to nurture and expand the lovely computer lab. If you haven't checked it out already, please feel free to swing by on a Tuesday evening and say hi. We can go over some of the fun literacy games and software, or just get familiar with using the computer in general. I'm always open to hearing questions, concerns, or suggestions for improving the lab; we can learn the technological ropes together!

I'll also be in the office Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please stop by to remind me your name! I'm slowly soaking everyone up, and I'm always eager to hear more about your day.



Fundraising Flash! from PSC, Inc.

Did you receive a gift card for the holidays that you're unable to use, or have a stack with remaining balances? Charity Choice offers a way to keep the spirit of giving alive. Now you can "re-gift" the value of gift cards from an array of merchants as a donation!

Visit <https://www.charitygiftcertificates.org/GCE/>, follow a few online steps, and the balance on your gift card will be sent electronically to PSC. You will receive a tax receipt for the amount of your donation.

Please share this opportunity with your friends. Together, we can all make a difference and support literacy!

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Adaugo N. – *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*

Chi Won S. – *Yes, Chef: A Memoir*

Ferozan M. – *Of Mice and Men*

Lucia L. – *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Parvin G. - *Skylark*

Pleasant Hill Book Club – *Twelve Angry Men*

Sandra B. – *The Adventures of Robin Hood*



Marilyn Price is impressed that her student **Fatima L.** is taking the initiative to independently work in the PSC computer lab to improve her skills. We are too!

After working with Geneva Henry, **Sandra B.** felt so confident about her writing that she submitted a proposal for hotel work training. It was accepted!

Chi Won S. and her tutor Kathy Urban finished the Walnut Creek City read, *Yes, Chef: A Memoir*, a longer book than Chi Won would have attempted before PSC.

Tutor Donna Gold reported that **Jessie L.** got a job at Target. Way to go, Jessie!

Adriana C. proudly met her goal of writing a letter to a friend after working with her tutor, Constance Brown.

With Marilyn Lloyd's encouragement, **Alicia F.** is now advocating for her son at his school, taking him to the library and reading to him at home. Excellent!

Work completed:

Hassiba H. with Sandy Blasingame – *Megawords 1* and *Building Strategies: Writing*

Manny N. with Donna Luckey – *Troubleshooter 2*

Tierra J. with Celia Lawson – *Wilson Step 3*

Rowena D. with Mary Ellen Crisp – *Wilson Step 4*

Sandra S. with Vicky DeYoung – *Wilson Step 4*

Adriana C. with Constance Brown – *Endeavor 4*

Arthur T. with Penny Snyder – *Wilson Step 6*



TIME FOR GOALS

Very soon, most PSC tutors will receive two goal forms, both entitled "Goals Setting and Progress." Please complete the forms and return them to a PSC office by Friday, January 29.

On the green goal form, please indicate what progress your student has made since July 1, 2015. Use the white form to let us know what you and your student hope to accomplish by June 30, 2016.

Don't forget to celebrate achievements! It's so motivating for students to see how far they've come.

BOOK DISCUSSION

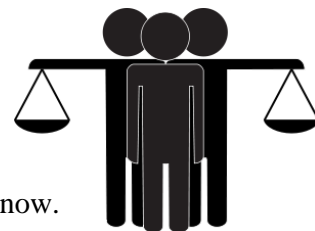
PSC Pleasant Hill

Monday, February 22

12:30-2 p.m.

Twelve Angry Men

Ask for the book and audio CD now.

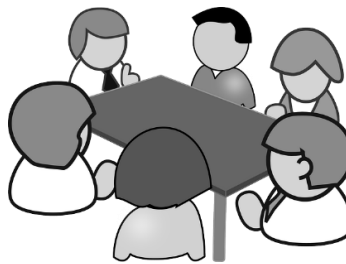


PSC students of any level (and their tutors) are welcome!

Try reading and/or listening to a well-known book (with your tutor's help), then come meet with PSC friends and staff to share questions and comments about the story.

Twelve Angry Men (by Reginald Rose, 73 pages, 2-hour CD): In this award-winning story, twelve jurors must decide if a 19-year-old boy killed his father. What seems like an easy decision for them is not easy at all. This classic tale explores human nature and how the U.S. jury system works. It always generates lots of discussion.

Wilson Tutor Support Meeting



PSC Pleasant Hill
Wednesday, March 16
10:00-11:30 a.m.

If you are using the Wilson Reading System with your student, join us for an informal discussion. Bring your questions and successes to share with other tutors. PSC staff has new tips to share and materials to offer.

RSVP by Wednesday, March 9 at (925) 927-3250.

Tutor Tips



Stuck On A Word?

by Karin

Does your student get stuck on a word while reading aloud? How can you help? Most of the time, students prefer to work it out themselves, but a few hints may be in order to achieve success.

Some things to do:

Are there any prefixes or suffixes? Can the student read them? Try reading the rest of the word without the prefix or suffix, then read the whole word. For practice, put common prefixes (com, dis, re) or suffixes (ous, ent, tion) on flashcards and review until they become automatic.

Find the vowels and divide the word into syllables. Every syllable has a vowel sound. Look at the vowel letters and sounds to see how many syllables are in the word.

Can the student divide the word into syllables, read each syllable, and then put it together to read the whole word? Dividing a long word into syllables makes it easier to read and spell.

How do you divide a word into syllables? You could use a dictionary (provided the student knows how to find the word and can use the pronunciation guide) OR you could apply a few rules to divide a word into its parts to sound it out. With practice, knowing how to sound out a known word is faster and more convenient.

Basic division rules:

FIND THE VOWELS.

See how many consonants are between the vowels:

TWO CONSONANTS: Divide between them.

Ex.: nap kin rid dle mis con duct

THREE CONSONANTS: Use the 1-2 rule. The first consonant goes in the first syllable; the next two consonants go to the second syllable.

Ex.: chil dren hun dred sur prise

FOUR CONSONANTS: Divide between them – 2 to the left, 2 to the right. This word will usually be a compound word.

Ex.: stand still grand slam

ONE CONSONANT: This is a little trickier. 80% of the time the consonant goes to the right, so try it there first.

Ex.: be gin ho tel bo nus

If that doesn't make a word, try the lone consonant to the right and see if that makes a word.

Ex.: cab in men u rel ish

There are more rules, and it is a little more complicated than what is described here, but this is a start to help your student when they are stuck on a word.



West County Corner

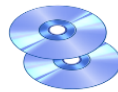
by Veronica

New Materials!



A few months ago, I ordered some new books for West County to expand our collection. The materials have arrived! Here are the titles that have been added to the shelves:

- *Study Skills*, level 1
- *Vocabulary from Classical Roots*, levels 4 & 5
- *Sentence Mastery*, levels A & B
- *Focus on Grammar*, levels 1 & 2
- *No Fish* (decodable poems for Wilson Readers)



Additionally, I am expecting a new software program called *Ultimate Spelling* for use in the computer lab.

Stop by the PSC office at the Hercules Library to peruse the books and software now available for your use.



Shoop! Shoop! Shoop! Shoop! Shoop!

Book Lovers Forum

Concord Library

Monday, February 29

6:30–8 p.m.

Ron Shoop from Penguin Random House will be conducting one of his popular Book Lovers Forums on Monday, February 29 at the Concord Library. Ron will offer his picks for your personal reading pleasure and book club discussions.

The event is 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 on hand to sell any “must have” titles, and she will donate a percentage of the proceeds to Project Second Chance. Hope to see you there!