



# NEWSLETTER

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## March/April 2016

### *A Letter from Laura*

Are you tired of reading the same authors? Are you looking for more variety in your reading choices? Then you won't want to miss the next **Ron Shoop Book Lovers Forum**.

It will be held on **Thursday, April 28** from **10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** at the **Ygnacio Valley Library** (2661 Oak Grove Road in Walnut Creek). Yes, you read the time correctly – we're mixing things up a bit, and trying a daytime Book Lovers Forum!

For those of you who are new to the concept, Ron Shoop is a representative from **Penguin Random House**, and he offers great picks for your personal and book club reading pleasure. Some of the best and most unexpected books I've ever read were Ron's recommendations.

So we hope to see you! As always, 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 selling any titles that interest you, and she will donate a percentage of the book sale proceeds to Project Second Chance. What a win/win!

- *Laura*



### While we love pets\*...

...Library rules prohibit pets from accompanying you to your lessons in the PSC offices and libraries. Service animals only, please! Thanks for your understanding.

\*Truly we do! Ask to see a picture of Megan's dog, Zoey.



Tutor-Only Workshop:  
**Wilson Tutor Support Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 16, 10-11:30 a.m.  
PSC Pleasant Hill

Join fellow Wilson tutors to hear about challenges and successes as well as updates from staff about methods and materials. RSVP by March 9 at (925) 927-3250.

### Tutor-Only Workshop: **Teaching Comprehension Strategies**



Thursday, April 14, 2:30-4 p.m., PSC Pleasant Hill

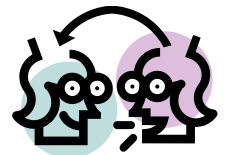
Does your student retain the facts and details of what she reads? Can she read between the lines and predict what might come next? Good readers have more than good decoding, vocabulary, and fluency skills. They also use strategies for understanding the passage.

This tutor-only workshop covers some of these comprehension strategies. Come watch a 30-minute video and then discuss how to identify and address your student's comprehension difficulties.

RSVP by April 11 at (925) 927-3250

### **Book Discussion**

Monday, May 2, 12:30-2 p.m.  
PSC Pleasant Hill



Is reading a book a goal? Try this one. We'll talk about *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White's famous story beloved by children and adults alike. This sweet novel of friendship, love, life, and death teaches us about finding miracles in even the smallest things. Come to or call PSC to check out the book and audio CDs now; read or listen with your tutor; then come to the meeting on May 2 to chat about it. (192 pages with lots of pictures, 3.5 hour audio CD)

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:



Students are reading:

Arthur T. – *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Farida M. – *Anne of Green Gables*

Lucia L. – *A Christmas Carol*

Sandra B. – *A Christmas Carol*

Nobuo S. – *A Lesson on Dying*

Parvin G. – *Grandfather's Dance & Skylark*

PSC Pleasant Hill Book Club – *Charlotte's Web*

Tutor Vivian Fong shared that **Farida M.** is now able to write the home address, phone number, names, and birthdays of family members. Hoorah, Farida!

**Angelica A.** has been busy. With the skills she's learned with her tutor, Janice Hicks, she started her own business, got a new job, traveled to Egypt, been interviewed on radio and TV, and is writing a professional book. Wow!

PSC staff was excited to receive an email from **Sandra S.** The time she has spent with her tutor, Vicky DeYoung, has paid off. Way to go, Sandra! Further, Vicky reports that she and Sandra are having wonderful conversations as a result of Sandra reading *12 Angry Men* for the PSC Book Club. How marvelous!

**Joy L.** was excited to participate in her very first Book Club with her tutor, Victoria Naulleau. Joy found the book *12 Angry Men* to be relevant and interesting, and enjoyed discussing it with her PSC peers. That's wonderful!

Thank you to **Yolanda M., Lucia L.,** and their tutors, Joan Benjamin and Nancy Glenfield! We appreciate the time you took to share your stories with our new tutors. You all did a fantastic job!

Way to go, **Ike E.!** Ike wrote his first thank you note with the help of his tutor Helen Beyer. That's terrific!

## Work completed:

**Ying Q.** with Amy Wolf – *Endeavor 5*

**Lucy E.** with Megan Brown – *Wilson Step 10*

## Hands-on Learning Tutor Workshop



Choose either:

- Thursday, May 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m. or
  - Wednesday, May 25, 2-4 p.m.
- PSC Pleasant Hill

Are you looking for tactile activities to help your student understand and practice certain skills? Join us to try out 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.

## In Our Words



Stories due Tuesday, May 31

Now is a good time to start writing something for this year's edition of *In Our Words*. This is a booklet of student writings on any topic of interest (learning to read, joys or challenges, friendship, a hobby or recipe, immigrating to the U.S., family, etc.).

Students may submit up to three stories, each one no more than 400 words. (Release form also required.)

## WELCOME NEW TUTORS!



Al Marable

Alestra Menendez

Andrea Gonzalez

Autumn Totah

Beverly White

Bonnie Okamoto

Courtney Newcomer

Elizabeth Hislop

Fran Sticha

Glyn Taylor

Julia Antrim

Karolyn Dreyer

Kathy Baker

Leonard Sloomaker

Linda Lipson

Lorraine Rosenblatt

Nancy Ferrara

Nguyen Tran

Renée Boone

Samantha Greenlee

Satabdi Sarkar

Stephanie Villasenor

Tamarak Arebalo



## Claim PSC status with pride!

(and perhaps get help finding a quiet library spot for your lessons)

Having trouble finding a quiet place in the library to conduct your lessons? Try letting library staff know you're a PSC tutor/student pair. While there are no guarantees, staff may be able to help you find a quiet place to meet. And if nothing else, you will help increase the visibility of PSC!

# Tutor Tips



## How Students Help PSC

by Kate

Students often tell us that PSC has changed their lives and that they are extremely grateful for the time, kindness, and knowledge their tutors and the program have shared with them. They sometimes say they wish they had something to give in return. There is actually much that PSC students can and do give to the program every day.

Over the last year, PSC students have:

- shown PSC tutors and staff what bravery, hard work, resilience, and perseverance look like;
- told friends and acquaintances about PSC, leading to new students, tutors, and supporters;
- given PSC staff useful feedback on our methods and materials;
- contributed stories to *In Our Words*, our annual book of student writings (stories of 400 words or fewer are due May 31);
- attended PSC workshops, like Book Club, that contribute to the PSC learning community;
- participated as both students and facilitators of the Adult Learner Leadership Institute;
- given PSC permission to take their photos for flyers and online promotions;
- put PSC flyers up on bulletin boards in their communities;
- visited new Tutor Training classes to answer questions from every new batch of tutors;
- recorded their literacy stories for PSC radio ads;
- given talks about their literacy stories at PSC Recognition Events and various PSC fundraisers;
- served on our PSC, Inc. fundraising board;
- donated directly to PSC, Inc. and attended their fundraisers.

Of course, students don't have to do *any* of these things - simply attending tutoring sessions twice a week and working towards personal goals is plenty! But we'd be happy to talk to any student who wants to learn more about these and other ways to help the program.



## More Productive Tutoring Sessions

For more productive tutoring sessions, minimize distractions and interruptions.

One pair reports they stopped answering their cell phones. The tutor and student told family and friends they were not available during their tutoring sessions and had a great session, unlike prior sessions. Respect each other's time and give yourself the gift of uninterrupted learning.

Do you have other tips or ideas for creating a more productive learning environment? Please let us know so we can share your wisdom!



## Computer Lab News

by Maya

Great news! We're thrilled to announce some upcoming renovations. This spring, we will receive five new computers in Pleasant Hill and three in Antioch. This will mean faster, more modern computer services for our students.

To top it off, this fall we'll be purchasing five iPads: three for students in the Pleasant Hill office, one for the Antioch office, and one for Hercules. We'll use the iPads for different literacy apps, educational games, and workshops throughout the county. We are beyond excited to bring our technological resources into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Please help: we'd love to hear from tutors and students who regularly use iPads to meet literacy goals. What apps or games do you like? Direct any suggestions or questions to Maya at [mdobjens@ccclib.org](mailto:mdobjens@ccclib.org).

## West County Corner

by Veronica

### Book Club

**When:** Wednesday, April 20  
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Where:** San Pablo Library

**Book:** *More Perfect Than the Moon*, by Patricia MacLachlan



*More Perfect than the Moon* is the fourth book in the *Sarah, Plain and Tall* series. You'll love the ongoing story about the Witting family and their relationships with each other. Check out a copy of the book or audio recording from your local library, then join us for a lively, thoughtful discussion.