



NEWSLETTER

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

May/June 2016

A Letter from Laura

The only constant in life is change!

There's a big move afoot in the Pleasant Hill Project Second Chance office – literally! Our office will be moving down the hall, closer to the main Pleasant Hill Library. We're not sure of the move date, but it will likely take place this summer or early fall. There are many advantages to this move, and we're very excited – we'll be closer to our Computer Learning Center and to the Library! We'll make sure you are well-informed of any changes (for instance, where you'll find our new office!) well in advance of our move.

The most immediate change you'll see is staff cleaning up! ☺ We have been in our current space for many years, and we all know how things accumulate...

But with all of the changes on the horizon, many things will remain the same. Our treat table will always be well-stocked; you will continue to be greeted and thanked warmly for your wonderful efforts; and our dedicated staff will continue to help and support you.

Speaking of changes, it is with sadness for us (and happiness for her) that I announce that Veronica Kimble, our beloved West County staff member, will be retiring the end of June. Veronica has been a valued member of the PSC team since 2009, beginning her career in Pleasant Hill and moving to West County in 2014 to set up the office and do community outreach. She has done a splendid job, and we will miss her dearly. Congratulations, Veronica, on your retirement!

Please read Veronica's article in the next column on our plan to staff the West County office in the interim and long term. There are exciting things in store!

- *Laura*

Farewell from Veronica

It is with bittersweet feelings that I write this message to you. After considerable thought, I've decided to leave my position with Project Second Chance at the end of June 2016. Why now? Well, here are my reasons. The first is I am relatively healthy, so this is a good time for me to actively pursue the personal interests on my bucket list, take leisurely trips with my husband, and attend the many activities in which my grandchildren participate.

Also, PSC West County is thriving. Right now, there are more students being served than in previous years and the support for them is phenomenal. Vast support comes from our exemplary tutors, dedicated PSC Inc. Board, and incredible library and PSC staff members. So, this is an optimal time to make a change.

To maintain a high level of support for West County, PSC Pleasant Hill staff will cover the Hercules office to support you until my position is filled.

Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
Maya 12:30-8pm	Rotating staff by appointment	Laura 10am-4pm

When my position is filled there will be increased staff presence in West County from 20 to 32 hours a week. The staff time will be split between the Hercules and new San Pablo library, which is slated to open in 2017.

I will miss the collaborative meetings, milestone accomplishments, and special celebrations spent with co-workers, tutors, and students. You have made the seven years I've been with PSC a very special, rewarding time in my life. Thank you!

Shoop! Shoop! Shoop! Shoop! Shoop!

Monday June 20, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library

Ron Shoop from Penguin Random House will hold one of his popular Book Lovers Forums, offering his picks for your personal reading pleasure and for book club discussions. The event is free and open to the public. 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 will donate a percentage of the proceeds to Project Second Chance. Hope to see you there!

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Ferozan M. – *The Last Lecture*

Ehte A. – *Maya Angelou: Words of Wisdom*

Lucia L. – *Little Women*

Tutor Elizabeth Bognar reported that **Maggie N.** got a new job. Congratulations, Maggie!

According to tutor Marilyn Lloyd, **Alicia F.**'s hard work on her English literacy has inspired other family members to enroll in adult school classes to work on their skills, too. What good news for the whole family!

With the help of her tutor, Jane Copps, **Parvin M.** is now putting holds on and checking out DVDs from the library. A lifelong library user is born!

Geneva Henry reported that **Sandra B.** wrote her first five-paragraph essay. Well done!

Work completed:

Min K. with Sandra Cornish – *Voyager Introduction*

Lan P. with Laurien Jones – *Voyager 2*

Hyaeran L. with Pamela Manning – *Voyager 2*

Mindy W. with Taina Libbey – *Challenger 3*

Tierra J. with Celia Lawson – *Wilson Step 4*

Alma S. with April O'Dea – *Wordly Wise 5*

Adaugo N. with Nichole Coggiola – *Challenger 7*

Martha G. with Sheryl Sankey – *Wilson Step 10*

Nazzi R. with Margaret Mahon – *Citizenship Passing the Test: Civics & Literacy*



Hands-On Learning Workshop for Tutors

Thursday, May 12, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. *or*

Wednesday, May 25, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

PSC Pleasant Hill

PSC is offering a workshop that introduces tutors to instructional methods for tactile and kinesthetic learners. Call to save your spot in either session (not both). There are only ten seats in each class. If under enrolled, the workshop may be canceled.



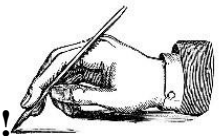
WATCH YOUR MAIL!

No, not for Publisher's Clearing House, but for the PSC Student Goals forms. They will be mailed on Monday, May 23 and are due back to PSC on Thursday, June 30. If you work with Karin or Veronica, they will contact you to do the forms together rather than mailing them to you.



LAST CALL

Student Writings Due May 31!



If you've been to a PSC Recognition Event, you know how much we love to celebrate the group of *In Our Words* authors every year. To have a story in the book, students may give us 1-3 pieces of writing on any topic before May 31. Pieces can be anything from just a few words to a maximum of 400 words. Writing does not need to be perfect!



FREE STUDY BOOKS

@ PSC – Pleasant Hill

In preparation for moving the PSC Pleasant Hill office down the hall, we are ruthlessly weeding our materials collection. We have begun setting out older or surplus books for students and their tutors to keep. Come browse in the PSC Pleasant Hill office during office hours.



Tutor Tips



How to Make Your Lessons STEAMy

by Megan

The Contra Costa County Library is currently celebrating the “Year of STEAM,” which promotes science, technology, and the arts. Since literacy is the key to unlocking all doors, consider incorporating STEAM-related activities into your lessons. Here are a few ideas:

Science: Since our students tend to enjoy nonfiction, read about science. PSC has several books that focus on science, such as *Breakthroughs in Science*, *Building Strategies: Science*, and *Building Basic Skills in Science*. We also have biographies of scientists, such as Rachel Carson and Thomas Edison. You can access a list of children’s books on STEAM topics by visiting <http://guides.ccclib.org/>.

Technology: Encourage your student to take advantage of the PSC computer labs. Students can learn to use a computer mouse or type. If they need practice sending email, the lab is a safe place to do so with supportive staff and tutors on hand. And later this year, PSC will be adding iPads to our lab offerings!

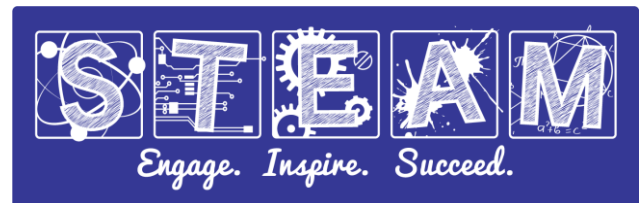
Engineering: Believe it or not, the Library has engineering programs. For example, in July there will be a talk at the Walnut Creek Library on how origami design can help solve engineering problems. At the Lafayette Library on the third Monday of the month, adults can try out 3D printers. And if students have children, they can bring the family to events such as Tinker Tuesdays, the Big Build, or Ingenuity Labs. To find events, use the events calendar on the Library’s homepage, choose the “Search” field in the upper left hand corner, and then enter “STEAM” as the event type.

Art: Students can experience art through Discover & Go (<http://discoverandgo.org/>). Using a library card, students can access free tickets to many art museums in the Bay Area, such as the Asian Art Museum, the Bedford Gallery, the Cartoon Art Museum, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. (There are science and technology venues, too.) After a visit to a museum, don’t forget to ask your student to write about the experience.

Math: It may not seem like a natural match, but reading, writing, and math can go hand-in-hand. Does your

student want to write checks? Simple addition and subtraction is needed to balance a checkbook. How about a recipe? Adult learners need to read and understand fractions to do so. And for some students, especially if they enjoyed math in school, word problems might be interesting material for reading practice.

Stay tuned: Starting June 1, the Library’s summer reading program kicks off, and it will be focusing on STEAM. Adults (tutors and students) can participate by playing the “STEAM Game:” they can read for twenty minutes at a time, complete activities (ex. draw a book character, discuss a book with a friend, visit a museum, etc.), or take a STEAM “challenge.” When people earn 1,000 points on their records, they can get a free book and enter a drawing for a prize through the Library. The record can also be accessed on the internet – a way to foster those tech skills!



Computer Lab News

by Maya

Hooray! Project Second Chance is thrilled to welcome five new computers to our Pleasant Hill lab.

The new machines are equipped with all your favorite software, including Lexia, Ultimate Phonics, and Rosetta Stone. They arrived just in time for summer when many tutors will be going on vacation. If you’re looking for a way to keep up with your reading and writing while your tutor is away, come by the lab to test out the new computers. Any questions, comments, or suggestions can be sent to Maya at mdobjens@ccclib.org.

PSC Student and Tutor Recognition Event



Thursday, August 25

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Library

Mark your calendar for the annual PSC Student and Tutor Recognition Event. We have much to celebrate.

We’ll release our most recent book of student writings, *In Our Words*, celebrate tutor milestones, and thank each and every one of Y-O-U for your participation in Project Second Chance. More to follow, but save the date now!