



# NEWSLETTER

☎ Central (925) 927-3250 ☎ East (925) 754-8317 ☐  
☎ West (510) 527-7558 ☐ ☎ FAX (925) 646-6040  
ccclib.org/psc

## March/April 2017

### *A Letter from Laura*

*In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move.*  
- Henry Rollins

As warmer, drier weather (finally!) approaches, there are a few rites of spring that can be accessed through the library.

First, it's time to get out and enjoy the cultural richness of our beautiful state, and what better way to do so than through the Library's *Discover & Go* program, which provides online access to free and low-cost tickets to museums, science centers, zoos, theaters, and more. You and your student can turn learning about *Discover & Go* into a lesson – help your student sign up for a library card and then practice reading about some of the attractions. From the Asian Art Museum to the Ruth Bancroft Garden to Madame Tussauds – there is something to entice everyone!

Second (and admittedly less appealing) is tax help at the library. Taxes can be very confusing for Project Second Chance students, so visit the library's website at [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org) to find out about free tax help through Earn It! Keep It! Save it!, or sign up for free assistance from an AARP volunteer at the Concord Library. Additionally, library patrons can use library computers to print state and federal tax forms.

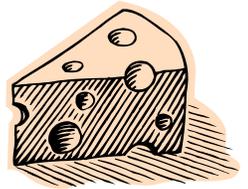
Finally, if it's still raining, there are wonderful programs available at your local library. From the Library's website, click on the Events Calendar, click Search, and filter for a variety of activities including Arts and Crafts, Games, Author Talks, and more.

Everything you need to make this spring stimulating and educational can be found at your local library!

*Laura*

Back by popular demand...

### **BOOK CLUB –** *Who Moved My Cheese?*



Students: Is “read a book” one of your goals? Try this short book and come talk about it with PSC friends!

Tutors: Consider reading this together in your lessons, offering as much support as is needed, before the meeting.

**When:** Thursday, April 6, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Where:** PSC Pleasant Hill

**Book:** *Who Moved My Cheese?* (by Dr. Spencer Johnson, 96 pages, 1 hour audio CD) - Bestselling fable about dealing with change and finding happiness. An engaging story with a useful life lesson.

Ask us for the book and/or audio CD now, then come to the meeting for a friendly discussion about the story.

### **Wilson Tutor Support Meeting**



**When:** Wednesday, April 12,  
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Pleasant Hill Library,  
Public Meeting Room

Are you tutoring a student in the Wilson Reading System? Do you have questions you would like to ask or great ideas to share? If so, then join PSC staff and your fellow tutors for an informal group discussion.

RSVP by Friday, April 7 at (925) 927-3250.

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Farida M. – *Timeless Tales: Myths*

Steven F. – *Ghost Town*



According to tutor Athena Galanis, student **Tenzin P.** has completed her first novel, *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. We hope it's the first of many!

Congratulations, **A.S.!** With the help of her tutor, April O'Dea, she earned a certification in phlebotomy. What an exciting accomplishment!

## Work completed:

- Ana F.** with Marj Cordova – *Words 1*  
**Harriet W.** with Sue Klingman – *Wilson Step 2*  
**Alicia F.** with Marilyn Lloyd – *Challenger 4*  
**Sandra S.** with Vicky DeYoung – *Wilson Step 6*  
**Martha G.** with Sheryl Sankey – *Wilson Step 12!!!*

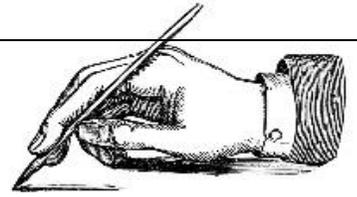


## Welcome, New Tutors!

Beth Reynolds	Craig Fleming
Don Dudan	Doralee Mavity
Ellen Bozzo	Jaquita Jones
Kate Szaky	Katie Parmeter
Mikki Baer	Penny Brody
Peter Picard	Sarah Michael
Stacy Schwan	Sue McKinnon
Susan Iwomoto	Susie Thompson
TJ Houle	Tracy McCrossin
Veneta Day-Franklin	Verna Allee

## *In Our Words*

PSC's Annual Book  
of Student Writings



Writings due Wednesday, May 31

We LOVE reading what students write. Now is the time to start encouraging students to write 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, a joy or challenge in your life, friendship, a hobby or recipe, immigrating to the U.S., a hero, etc.).

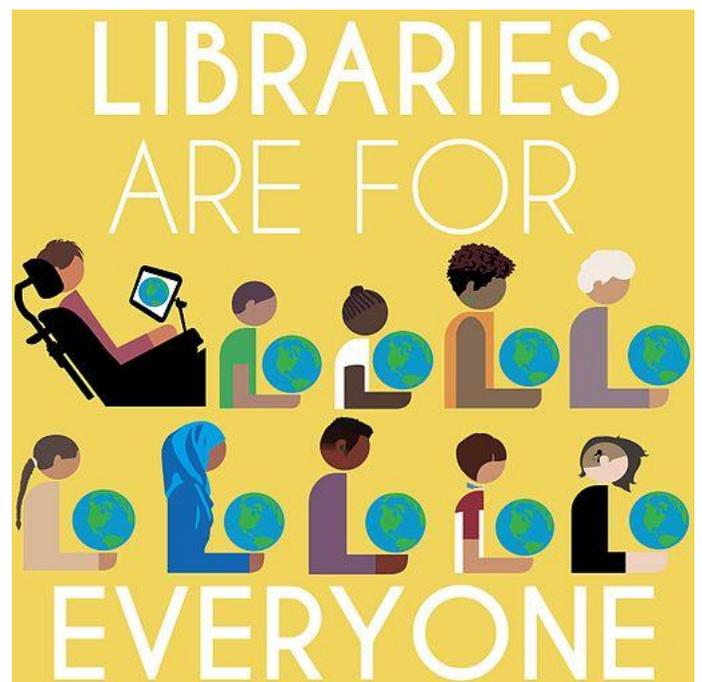
Students may submit 1-3 stories, each one no more than 400 words. Stories do NOT need to be perfect. We'll correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization, but otherwise we want *the student's voice* to shine through. (See staff for the required release form.)

We produce the booklet during the summer, then celebrate its publication at our Annual Recognition Event, this year targeted for the evening of Thursday, September 14.

## National Library Week

April 9 - 15

Theme: "Libraries transform."



# Tutor Tips



## Reading, Fingers & Fun!

by Megan

For many PSC students, reading will always be hard work. So, as a tutor, and likely a lover of books, you would probably be ecstatic if your student told you she had fun while reading a book. The first step towards realizing this goal is to find a book that is the “right level.” The *Five Finger-Stop Rule* is a good guide to follow when looking for a book that your student can read independently and, as a result, enjoy more.

**Step 1:** Help your student choose a book on a topic or theme of interest. We suggest looking in the children or young adult sections of the library. Also, if interested, ask us to show you how to use a “Lexile” level to start narrowing down the possibilities in the Library’s catalog.

**Step 2:** Open the book to the middle – any page will do.

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

**Step 4:** 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 reading selection – 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; it may take a number of tries.

However, if fewer than five fingers are up at the end, you’ve found a winner!

As your student has more experience with pleasurable reading, she may discover that her error limit is actually higher or lower than five fingers.

Happy reading!

## Computer Lab News



PSC is happy to announce the return of evening hours in the Pleasant Hill Computer Lab. Beginning in March, new tutors T.J. and Katie will be alternating Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 p.m. They’re eager to meet new students and lend a hand, so come give them a warm welcome. Remember, the lab is open to pairs as well as individual students.

The new hours beginning in March are:

Tuesday: 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursday: 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

See you there!

## West County Corner

West County has an exciting new piece of software for you to try out. We currently have two CDs of *Phonemic Awareness*, which offer various activities that help build skills in sound/letter recognition and manipulation, the foundation for literacy.

The activity "Put Same with Same" gives you practice connecting sounds and letter names to their corresponding symbols. "Match Ups" uses letter names and sounds in a game of memory. Each level has more letters or sounds to choose from and gets increasingly difficult. "Patterns" shows a series of letters with similar sounds placed in a pattern, allowing you to select the letters needed to complete the sequence. "And a One, Two, Three" is a great way to visualize the way words can be broken down into syllables. Students select a colored box for each syllable they hear in the word. "Cut Ups" allows you to unscramble sounds to make a whole word. Lastly, "Read My Lips" shows students exactly what their mouths should be doing to create a sound. Unfortunately, the video for this is spotty. Instead of using the CD, try this link: <https://www.learningfundamentals.com/exercises/speech/Flash/online.php?type=RML>.

The Pleasant Hill PSC Computer Lab also has *Phonemic Awareness*. Unlike in Hercules, you do not need a CD to access it in Pleasant Hill; simply click the icon and begin.