



NEWSLETTER

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ccclib.org/psc

January/February 2018

A Letter from Laura

Happy New Year! The Project Second Chance (PSC) team wishes you a splendid 2018.

Every new year seems to roll in with change, and this year is no exception. As you know, Karin Madura-Carroll recently retired after 22 years at PSC—what a big hole we have to fill! And it will take some time to do so. In the meantime, Megan Brown and I will be staffing the Antioch office one day/week, typically Thursday afternoons. You can also find us by calling the Pleasant Hill office at (925) 927-3250 or emailing lseaholm@ccclib.org or mbrown@ccclib.org.

During this time of transition, please remember the **Antioch Computer Lab** is available for PSC students to use with or without their tutor. We are fortunate to have two fantastic Lab volunteers who can assist anyone who needs help. Veronica Kimble (former PSC staff member, proving that no one ever truly leaves PSC ☺), will be in the Lab every **Tuesday from 1–3 p.m.**, and Janice Hicks will staff the lab on **Tuesdays from 12–1 p.m.** and **Thursdays from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.** If Veronica or Janice is unavailable, your student may still use the computers if they are comfortable working without assistance.

Finally, what would beginning a new year be without a quote (I love quotes!), and it seems appropriate that this year's quote be about embracing the inevitability of change. Oprah Winfrey writes, "*The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude.*" I'm going to remember this the next time I fret about change!

- *Laura*

Introducing the New Discovery & Exploration Nook

Everyone loves a makeover! With the New Year we bring you a new and improved Pleasant Hill Computer Lab. Don't worry, we'll still offer the same software, websites, apps, and lab tutors, but we're adding more to the mix.

The Discovery & Exploration Nook—or the DEN—is a chance for students and/or tutors to get their hands dirty and play. Come try board games, art, word manipulatives, and other fun tools to reignite your sense of exploration and creativity.

Help us break in the new DEN on **Tuesday, February 13** from **3–7:30 p.m.** Come prepared to meet new people, try new things and, of course, eat snacks.



How Words Work: Parts of Speech Workshop Series (for students, tutors, and pairs)

Every Thursday, **March 1–April 19**, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library, Public Meeting Room

Interested in learning about the eight parts of speech?
Curious about how words interact to form sentences?
Then join us for this fun workshop series!

After a brief explanation of a specific type of word (ex. noun, verb, etc.), we will play games and complete hands-on practice activities. You will also learn a few of the rules related to each part of speech.

Recommended for intermediate/advanced level students.

To participate in this workshop, attendance at the **first session is required.**

Register at (925) 927-3250 by Friday, February 23.

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Olga N. – *A Christmas Carol*



Young N. completed her second English novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*, with tutor Marc Hanson. Go Young!

According to her tutor, Nancy Glenfield, **Lucia L.** researched the best health care coverage for her family on coveredca.com. Good work!

With the help of tutor Fran Sticha, **Leslie K.** got her driver's license in November. That's great news!

Has your student reached a milestone? No matter how large or small, PSC wants to celebrate. Let us know by checking the box on your calendar that asks if we can include your student's achievement in a future newsletter.

Work completed:

Olga N.	with Edy Nicolini – <i>Idioms for Everyday Use</i>
Juan C.	with Chris Steers – <i>Wilson Step 1</i>
Kyungok K.	with Susan Reid-Adam – <i>Voyager 1</i>
Long L.	with Tracy McCrossin – <i>Voyager 1</i>
Tommy C.	with Peter Picard – <i>Words 2</i>
Ju C.	with Carleen Goeckel – <i>Challenger 3</i>
Leslie K.	with Fran Sticha – <i>Endeavor 3</i>
Rosa A.	with Steve Zanki – <i>Challenger 3</i>
Harriet W.	with Sue Klingman – <i>Wilson Steps 5 & 6</i>
Kyung Min D.	with Kathy Dunne – <i>Endeavor 7</i>
Richard W.	with Kim Van Hoesen – <i>Wilson Step 8</i>
Steve F.	with Arlene Mornick – <i>Wilson Step 11</i>

It's Goal Time!

Tutors: You will soon receive two goal forms in the mail. Please complete and return them to a PSC office by **Friday, January 26**. Don't forget to celebrate your student's achievements for 2017. Also, see this issue's Tutor Tip on setting effective new goals for 2018!

Apps & Phone Magic:

A Tech Workshop for Everyday Use

(for students, tutors, and pairs)

Tuesday, March 6, 2–3 p.m.

San Pablo Library,
Conference Room

RSVP by Thursday, March 1



Wednesday, April 4, 12–1 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Library,

DEN (formerly known as the Computer Lab)

RSVP by Friday, March 30

Your smart phone probably drives you crazy at times, but it could be your new best friend. In this workshop, we'll give you tips on how to set up your smart phone to help with reading almost anything, plus other features you might not know about. You'll get to see a few of our favorite apps, learn how to install them on your personal phone or tablet, and go home with a list of resources to try on your own. Those without smart phones can use PSC's new iPads. This workshop is open to students and tutors. Bring any portable device you use regularly.

ESL Tutor

Support Meeting

(for tutors only)

Wednesday, March 7,

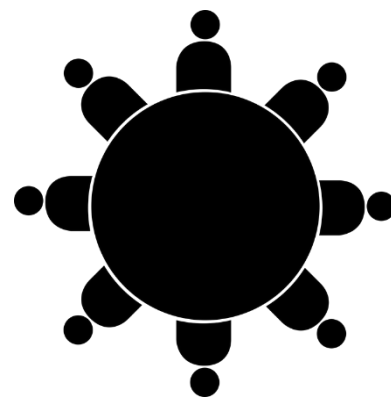
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Library,
Public Meeting Room

RSVP by Monday, March 5

Bring your questions, concerns, tales of tutoring successes or struggles, or simply your curiosity to this annual meeting with staff and fellow ESL tutors. Before an open discussion on whatever tutoring issues are on your minds, staff will offer information on:

1. tips on *how to teach vocabulary and phrasal verbs*, both things all ESL students need to know; and
2. a multi-part curriculum you can use to teach your student *language needed to be an active library user*, leading up to an optional group Library Orientation session with Pleasant Hill Library's Adult Services Librarian in May.



Tutor Tips



Setting Effective Goals

by Kate

It's goal setting time at PSC! As you and your student sit down to set from one to three new life skill goals for the January–June period, see if you can make them:

S - M - A - R - T

Specific: Specific goals are more motivating than general goals. They address the “6 W’s” (*who, what, where, why, when, which*). Ex: Dig deeper into the general goal of “read a book/newspaper/magazine” by adding “read a recipe in *Good Housekeeping*,” “read a *News for You* article” or “read a Young Adult-level biography on Marie Curie.”

Measurable: Measureable goals set concrete ways to know when you reach them. Instead of saying “increase” or “improve,” say *how much, how many*. Ex: a non-measurable goal is “improve reading comprehension.” A measureable goal is “read three *News for You* articles and write one-paragraph summaries of each.”

Achievable: Smart goals are big enough to be motivating, but small enough to be achievable. They are realistic for that person in that amount of time. Can you realistically meet this goal in the *six month goals period*? If not, identify the first sub-step and set that as the goal. Ex: you might not be ready to “become a nurse” by June, but maybe you could achieve a goal to “research nursing school requirements.”

Relevant: Does the goal relate to your life (work, family, interests)? When meeting a goal makes a difference in your everyday life, you’ll be more excited about setting and meeting new goals again. Ex: A new mom might be less excited about “read a newspaper” than “read an article about caring for newborns.”

Timely: PSC builds six-month timeframes into the goals process, but try attaching more specific times to hold yourself accountable. Ex: A non-time specific goal is “take the Certified Nursing Assistant test,” but “take the Certified Nursing Assistant test in April” sets a more specific target to motivate action.

BOOK CLUB

(for students and pairs)

Thursday, March 22, 10–11:30 a.m.

Pleasant Hill Library, Room A



A Gift of Hope, by Danielle Steele
(128 pages, 3-hour audio CDs)

Discover this inspiring true story of a well-known author’s effort to give the homeless of San Francisco comfort and hope. For eleven years, she quietly drove the streets at night to hand out food, clothing, and sleeping bags. Read the book or listen to the audio CD of this powerful memoir with your tutor, and then come to the meeting to share reactions with PSC friends. Ask for the book and CDs now.

Have Some Fun with High-Five Bingo!

Look for a surprise in your goal form letter this January—High-Five Bingo! If you don’t receive a goals mailing this January, ask for High-Five Bingo at your local PSC office.



Each bingo square contains a PSC reading/language activity. Do the activity and cross it off when you are done. When you cross off five squares in a row, you can shout, “Bingo!”

Put your name on the card you have worked on, and drop it off in a PSC office by the end of June, 2018. We’ll give you a high five and enter you for prizes!

Student Goal Materials:

“Get a Job, a Better Job, or Promotion”

PSC has purchased several new textbooks that focus on job-related skills. If you are looking for something new to spice up your lessons, be sure to check out the following materials from your local PSC office:

Building a Strong Vocabulary for Work Readiness
Success on the Job: Writing at Work
WorkWise Skill Series (reading, writing, and math)