



# NEWSLETTER

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ccclib.org/psc

## March/April 2018

### *A Letter from Laura*

*If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably  
doesn't lead anywhere.*

—Frank A. Clark

While obstacles are part of daily life and can even strengthen and ultimately benefit us, they can sometimes be overwhelming for Project Second Chance (PSC) students who are struggling to raise their children, succeed at work, and learn to read at the same time—so overwhelming that they give up on their dream to learn to read, write, and spell better. If your student is missing lessons because they lack the financial resources to put gas in their car or to hire a babysitter so they can attend their lessons, please come talk to us.

PSC is fortunate to be supported by Project Second Chance, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization whose sole mission is to fundraise and advocate for PSC and its students. The lovely board members of Project Second Chance, Inc. would like nothing more than to remove obstacles to learning to read for those students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Clearly Project Second Chance, Inc. cannot help with all situations, but modest requests for transportation, childcare, or workbooks may be possible.

The path to literacy is too important to let these obstacles stand in the way. Please know that all requests will be handled in confidence and with great respect and dignity.

—*Laura*

### **Apps & Phone Magic: A Tech Workshop for Everyday Use**

Offered on two different dates/locations:

**Tuesday March 6, 3–4 p.m.**, San Pablo Library  
(RSVP by Thursday, March 1) or

**Wednesday April 4, 12–1 p.m.** Pleasant Hill Library  
DEN (RSVP by Friday, March 30)

If you're having trouble using your smart phone or iPad, or if you're just curious about all the buzz, check out this workshop. We'll show you how to set up your phone so that it's more user-friendly and how to install apps on your own. Bring any device you use regularly.

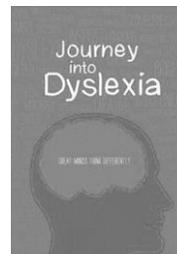
### **REMINDER: ESL Tutor Support Meeting**

**Wednesday March 7, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.**  
PSC–Pleasant Hill

Hear staff tips on teaching vocabulary and phrasal verbs, get curriculum on using the library, and chat with fellow tutors about tutoring challenges and successes. RSVP by March 5.

### ***Journey into Dyslexia* Film Screening**

**Tuesday, May 15, 1–2:30 p.m.** San Pablo Library



PSC students and tutors are invited to a screening of *Journey into Dyslexia*, an HBO documentary from 2011. Hear from a number of successful adults with dyslexia as they describe their childhood struggles and how they have come to view dyslexia as a gift.

Adult family members and friends are welcome to come with you. Be sure to RSVP by Friday, May 11. Under-enrolled events may be canceled.

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:

Students are reading:



**Pleasant Hill Book Club – A Gift of Hope**

**Chi won S.** – *In a Nutshell*

**Ferozan M.** – *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*

**Perveen G.** – *Caleb’s Story*

**Richard W.** – *Lilac Girls*

**Young N.** – *The Happy Isles of Oceania*

After reading an article about North Korean nuclear testing with her tutor Pat Maughan, **Jayoung L.** was able to discuss the topic with her college-age daughter and write a summary of their conversation. Great!

Tutor Marcia Farrar was excited to report **Catherine L.**’s success at reading and following a recipe to make cookies at home with her ten-year-old son. How sweet!

Thank you to two special pairs who spoke at the January tutor training. **Bernard B.** with his tutor Susie Thompson as well as **Leslie K.** with her tutor Fran Sticha all did a great job of representing PSC and describing their experiences to the new tutors. Many thanks!

Way to go, **Ike E.**! According to Ike’s tutor, Helen Beyer, he wrote a letter to his insurance company.

## Work completed:

- Ana F.** with Marjorie Cordova—*Words 2*  
**Lucie S.** with Denise Renke—*Wilson Step 1*  
**Bernard B.** with Susie Thompson—*Wilson Steps 5 & 6*  
**Harriet W.** with Sue Klingman—*Wilson Step 7*  
**Elaine W.** with Tammie Nichols—*Wilson Step 8*

## WELCOME NEW TUTORS!

- |                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Candice Abraham                     | Eileen Kotler   |
| Isabella de Oliveira Lima van Oppen | John Andreski   |
| Keely Everett                       | Lainey Pleet    |
| Maggie Hutchinson                   | Marijke Tenge   |
| Mary Threlkel                       | Michael Marable |
| Santiago Selga-Eaton                | Sheila Casto    |
| Shelna Rajesh                       | Susan Rosenberg |

## “Welcome to the Library” Tour

Thursday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.  
Pleasant Hill Library  
(RSVP by Tuesday, May 15)

What does the library offer? So much! If you want to start using the library, but are unsure of a few things like: how to get a library card or use the checkout machine; how to find things; how to search the website calendar for programs or look things up online; or how to participate in Summer Reading, come to a library orientation just for PSC students (and tutors) with a Pleasant Hill Adult Services Librarian and PSC staff.



## Introduction to Podcasts Workshop

Thursday, May 24, 1–2 p.m.  
Pleasant Hill Library DEN  
(RSVP by Tuesday, May 22)

A podcast is an audio file (usually part of a series) that can be downloaded to a phone, iPad, or computer. Podcast themes range from politics to health to narrative and are a great way to build reading comprehension. With so many options, there’s something for everyone. Come to this workshop to hear samples from popular series, learn how to download podcasts on your own device, and learn how to incorporate them into lessons. Students and tutors are welcome.

## IN OUR WORDS Stories due May 31

Have you written anything short you’d like to see in print? Send us a sentence, story, poem, essay, letter, or other PSC student writing for the 2018 edition of *In Our Words*, PSC’s annual book of student writing. We will include up to three stories per student that are each from one word to 400 words in length. Short, imperfect – we want them all. Ask to see the 2017 edition for ideas. Due by Thursday, May 31.



# Tutor Tips



## I Do, We Do, You Do

By Megan

Independence is the ultimate success for an adult learner—whether that is becoming an independent reader/writer or just being able to do one skill independently. To help your student gain independence, we recommend a teaching strategy called the *Gradual Release of Responsibility*, or more simply, the *I Do, We Do, You Do* method. It can help a student master almost any skill: using new words, punctuation, grammar, spelling, etc.

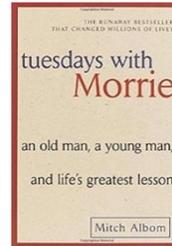
**I Do:** In this step, the tutor models a new skill while the student observes. For example, to teach how to capitalize words in a sentence, write a sentence without capital letters. Then, go through and talk out which words should be changed. For instance, you might look at a checklist and say, “Well, the first word in a sentence should always have a capital letter,” and then erase the lower case first letter of the first word and write the same letter in uppercase. You might then say, “Proper nouns should have a capital letter. Proper nouns are the specific names of people, places, and things. Do I have a word in this sentence that is a name?” Then, point to each proper noun, explain why it is a proper noun, and change the first letter of the name to a capital. Continue until all words needing capitals are fixed.

**We Do:** Next, tutors and students work through the skill together. The tutor should support the student by asking questions to guide the work. To continue with our example, write out another sentence without capital letters, and ask the student, “So, what does our checklist say we should capitalize?” Once the student answers, ask him to point to the word that needs to be changed, and make the edit. If the student is stuck, you might say something like, “Proper nouns need capital letters. Proper nouns are the specific names of people, places, and things. Do you see any proper nouns?” When the student points to a proper noun, make the edit. You may need to do this step multiple times over several lessons. At some point, pass the pencil to the student and let him make the changes while you continue to talk him through the task.

**You Do:** Once the student seems confident, attempt this final step: the student completes a similar activity without help. With the capitalization example, write another

sentence without capital letters. Then, let the student fix the errors without any input from you. When the student finishes, check his work. If there is a mistake, revert back to a “we do” approach by asking prompting questions to guide the student to make needed changes. This step may need to be done multiple times until the student is able to do it correctly more than once without help.

If you need help planning these steps for a specific skill, don’t hesitate to contact PSC staff. We’re here to help!



## West County Book Club

**Wednesday, April 25, 3–4:30 p.m.**  
San Pablo Library, Conference Room

*Tuesdays with Morrie*, a PSC Book Club favorite by Mitch Albom, is an inspirational true story about a writer’s friendship with a wise teacher in his final months of life. Their regular visits turn into one final class on how to live well.

All levels welcome. Tutors are welcome to participate with their student. Get the audio and/or book from PSC now. Listen or read before the meeting. Then come to the meeting to chat about it.

## West County Corner

Are you looking for a way to improve reading comprehension? We have some new additions to the San Pablo PSC office and Hercules computer lab that might be the ticket.

New at the San Pablo PSC office is **Read Naturally**, a self-paced reading comprehension program that can help build fluency and reading comprehension skills. Each level (there are 14!) has 24 nonfiction practice passages with comprehension questions and accompanying audio. The Read Naturally program can be used in a couple of different ways depending on your goals. Contact West County Laura to learn how to get started.

At the Hercules library, we’ve got a new software addition called **Spotlight on Reading & Listening Comprehension**. This is a beginning-level program that helps with paraphrasing, summarizing, comparing and contrasting, making inferences, sequencing, and more. Students can work through the passages at their own pace with a lab tutor always available for help. The Hercules lab is open for PSC students and tutors on Tuesday and Thursday, 1–2:30 p.m.