



NEWSLETTER

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November/December 2018

A Message from Megan

Your [day] should end with a feeling of accomplishment for what you have completed...and a feeling of, 'I can't wait to come back tomorrow.'

- Sandra Leon, *Supercharge Your Life*

When I read this quote, I felt it was a fitting thought on which to end the year. It is important to take the time to reflect on your goals: both evaluating your progress and celebrating the successes you've had. Our Goal Setting and Progress form is meant to help you do just that. You should be receiving the forms by early January, and we will be asking for their completion by January 25.

PSC is proud of the following 2018 accomplishments:

- Redesigning the Pleasant Hill computer lab (now called the "DEN")
- Receiving grants from Dollar General, the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation, the Danville Women's Club, and the Concord-Diablo Rotary Club, which will help us purchase new materials, including the 4th edition of the Wilson Reading System (WRS)
- Offering our first summer (and weekday) tutor training
- Serving 175 adult learners with the help of 171 volunteer tutors

And next year, we are looking forward to welcoming a new program manager, beginning to use the 4th edition of WRS, and continuing to work with and support our tutors and students, among other things.

So, I hope all of you look back and identify achievements, whether big or small, of which you are proud. And I hope you look forward to all you can accomplish in 2019!

- *Megan*

Don't Miss These Free Fun-Filled Events

Wednesday, November 7, 6–7:30 p.m.
Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda

Staff from Orinda Books will moderate a panel of three authors: C.W. Gortner, Allie Larkin, and Adrienne McDonnell. Afterwards, the authors will be available to sign books. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be drawings for prizes. Twenty percent of all book sales that night will benefit Project Second Chance. Register at tinyurl.com/OrindaAuthor.

Tuesday, November 13, 6:30–8 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library

Angie Cozad from Real Books will share her recommendations for book lovers and book clubs. The titles will be available to purchase that evening; a portion of the proceeds will benefit Project Second Chance and the Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library.

Dyslexia Film Viewing *The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia*

Monday, December 17, 12–2 p.m.
Brentwood Library Conference Room

Come see the new Brentwood Library and learn more about dyslexia with a screening of this film.

A selection of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, the film includes profiles of adults and children with dyslexia and interviews with experts. It is directed by James Redford, whose son is dyslexic. A discussion will follow the film. Adult friends and family welcome. RSVP by Wednesday, December 12. Events may be canceled due to low enrollment.



The Big Picture:
Rethinking Dyslexia

Student Achievements

Success Stories:



Students are reading:

Kay N.—*More Perfect Than the Moon*

Kathy Urban let us know that **Chi won S.** wrote a wonderful thank you note to Laura Seaholm upon her retirement, expressing gratitude for Laura and PSC. We're sure Laura appreciated it, Chi won!

PSC extends a huge congratulations to **Steven F.** and his tutor Arlene Mornick for completing all 12 Steps of the Wilson Reading System! Steven and Arlene started working together on Step 1 in October 2011. Steven is the 47th PSC student to complete the Wilson books. We are so proud of your accomplishment.

Work completed:

Lolita A. with Celia Lawson—*Wilson Step 2*
Lucy L. with Nancy Glenfield—*Challenger 3*
Steven F. with Arlene Mornick—*Wilson Step 12!*



Welcome New Tutors!

Alison Wohlers
Karen Polk
Shipra Kanchan
Susan Hoskins
Tish Snyder

Jamila Kanika
Madeline Krimmel
Sophia Brown
Tola McCullough

Computer Lab News

Are you curious about using the Library's Libby app but can't come into one of the PSC offices to get set up? Use this online tutorial to get a brief introduction to using Libby eBooks on smart phones and eReader tablets. You can view tutorials customized specifically to Androids or iPhones, depending on what you use. And of course, we're always here to answer questions. To watch the tutorials, go to:

<https://my.nicheacademy.com/ccclib/course/1451>.

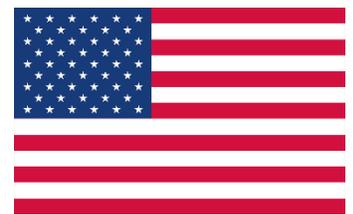


High-Five Bingo is Back!

Last spring, we launched a High-Five Bingo game during the January to June goal-setting period. It was so much fun, we're doing it again! Look for the game board and directions in the goal-setting letter that will be in your mailbox in the new year (or at a pair support meeting for East and West county pairs). Remember—there are prizes!



Free Immigration Services at the Library



Immigration Lawyer: Have questions? Come for a private 15-minute meeting with an immigration lawyer at the Pleasant Hill Library on Tuesday November 27, 6–8 p.m. Sign-ups start at 5:30 p.m.

Citizenship Application Workshop: Ready to apply for citizenship? A legal outreach team will help you get your full application ready to mail at the San Ramon Library on Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Come with your documents.

Tutor Tips



Tutor-to-Tutor Tips

Compiled by Kate

Practical ideas from your wonderful fellow tutors:

From time to time, I present her with four or five proverbs and ask her to interpret them. At the next lesson, she brings in several Russian proverbs and explains them to me. It's interesting to see which proverbs are the same in both languages and which are different. (Tom)

My student is now intrigued by crossword puzzles. I start with the simplest ones from this website (see below). She must read and fully comprehend the clue to get the right answer, and uses her dictionary to get the correct spelling. Even without the crossword format, I offer sentences in the puzzle-clue format. This should be viewed as a game, not a test. (Wendy)

<http://www.englishforeveryone.org/Topics/Crossword-Puzzles.htm>

Don't let your student read with a rising tone on each word. The student is checking with you whether it is correct or not. This slows their confidence. Praise should come from the tutor, rather than sought by the student, and at the end of the exercise rather than at each moment. (Anonymous)

Take your student on a local field trip, e.g. to the theater or a local art gallery and then have them write about how they felt about the experience. They will most probably be excited about seeing something new and be eager to write about it. (Carleen)

Tips: 1) using voice recognition on the phone to look up the word definitions; 2) listening to audiobooks on the phone while looking at a print or online copy of the same book; and 3) watching movies that have closed captioning to see the words spoken on the screen. (Dan)

Keep compliments honest and specific. Rather than saying, "Wow, you're doing great!" I say, "This step is complicated, but you only missed one word when I charted last week, and there were no errors today." He can't argue with this because it's true. (Susie)

I made five lists (who, what, where, trait, when) of six numbered items each. My student rolls a die to select one

item from each list and writes a creative and funny story. We both have a lot of fun and laughs while he eagerly learns to improve his writing. (Don)

With LIBBY (library app), my student checks out both an ebook and its printed version so she can read and listen to a story at the same time on her own. We discuss the story and any new vocabulary words when we meet. (Susan)

I invariably say words that are new to my students and I discuss the definitions. I started writing the words down, and in subsequent lessons we review them or I develop an exercise for them to do, such as a crossword puzzle, in order to reinforce the word definitions. (Jane)

Look for patterns in [your student's] mistakes, such as with plurals, capitalization, etc. Those mistakes might reflect the way things are done in their native language, and can tell you what specific grammar lessons your student could benefit from. Keep things positive when your student makes mistakes. Point out that their mistakes help you know what you need to work on together. (Sandy)



East County Corner

Amidst grateful residents, dignitaries, Star Wars characters and Aztec dancers, PSC helped open the brand new, 20,000-square foot Brentwood Library. The warm welcome we've enjoyed from the enthusiastic and supportive community library poises PSC to reach more learners in the rapidly growing East County. A big "thank you" to volunteers Celia Lawson and Elizabeth Bognar. With their help, we spoke to about 300 people about our services while we stamped passport maps for kids and adults learning about the new library. In all, around 5,000 people attended the grand opening.

In other news, PSC trained three new East County tutors in September, and we are marking our calendars for student intakes in Brentwood as we go to print!

Leslie, based in Antioch, will staff the Brentwood PSC office on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call her at 925-754-8317 or email lmadini@ccclib.org if you are interested in meeting your learners there or taking a quick tour. Tell your Brentwood friends who may want to tutor that we are now open for business with study rooms available for booking appointments. Brentwood Library hours are Monday–Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday–Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.