



Spring is here!

We have some **exciting** things coming this spring. Read the newsletter for more about PSC t-shirts, a family reading event, a Google Docs workshop for tutors, and a group for learners to share their ideas for PSC.

Please join us on Saturday, June 10, at 5 pm for our PSC Celebration 2023 event. The event will happen at the Pleasant Hill Library. We will be **celebrating** learners, tutors, and *In Our Words*. Look for an invitation soon!

Also, we have a new staff member! Please see page 2 for Robin's introduction.

In this Issue

Meet Robin.....	2
T-shirt Design Contest.....	2
Family Reading Event.....	2
Learner Achievements.....	3
Spelling Tips.....	4
Tutor/Learner Activity.....	5 & 6
Tutor Announcements.....	7 & 8

You can find the meaning of words in **gold** in the Glossary on page 9.

News for Learners & Tutors

Welcome, Robin!

Hello! My name is Robin Bielman and I'm the new Library Literacy Assistant. I'm so happy to be here at Project Second Chance. I recently moved to the area from Southern California where I worked at an Adult School for many years, helping students meet their education goals and **coordinating** career training programs. Reading and writing are two of my most favorite things and I look forward to meeting all of you.



PSC, Inc. T-Shirt Design Contest

Do you like making art? Do you want to help PSC? Our friends at PSC, Inc. are **sponsoring** a t-shirt design contest. Create a drawing or design that tells about what PSC means to you. We will make t-shirts with the winning design! The winner will receive a free t-shirt and be **recognized** in the PSC newsletter. The contest ends April 9. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/PSCshirtcontest>.

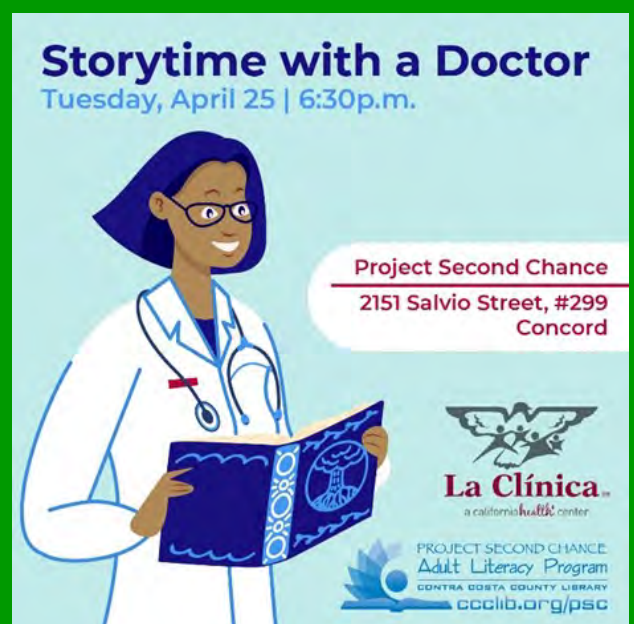
We will send an email about buying t-shirts in late spring.

Family Reading Event: Storytime with a Doctor

PSC families with children ages 2–7 are invited for a Storytime with a Doctor event. A doctor from La Clínica in Concord will read a story. A librarian will share songs. Then, we will do a craft. Families will take home a children's book to keep.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6:30–7:30 pm

PSC Concord Office: 2151 Salvio St.,
Suite 299, Concord



News for Learners & Tutors

Learner Completions

Maria M. read *Malala* with her tutor Nancy A., and then took it home to read it again. Great job, Maria!

Stella K., with her tutor Elaine H., read two **biographies**. One biography was about Ruby Bridges and the other one was about Rosa Parks. Thanks for **inspiring** us to find out more about these amazing women.

Simone S. finished reading *The Friendship War* with Arlene M. Keep up the great work!

Learner Achievements

Tutor Madeline K. shared that **Assad A.** is taking ESL classes at Mt. Diablo Adult Education. This semester he **advanced** from the intermediate level to Intermediate High. Way to go!

With the help of his **dedicated** tutor Karen H., **Ahmad A.** was able to sign up for a library card and register to vote. That's great news, Ahmad!

Roy D. and his tutor Julie H. finish each session with a crossword puzzle from *News for You*, then Roy takes the paper home. After taking home the latest issue, Roy **proudly** told Julie that he'd read the entire issue of *News for You* by himself!

Tutor Julie L. reports that **Yuana F.**'s reading aloud has greatly improved. They have done fun things like look up Shakira songs on YouTube and read them in English and Spanish. They have also **looked up** and read grocery words on the Trader Joe's website. Great job to both of you!

Misty G. advanced to Step 8 after finishing Step 7 in the Wilson Reading System with tutor Judi K. Congratulations, Misty!



Welcome New Tutors!

Allison White	Lisa Riedmiller
Amanda Grafenstine	Lori Dieterle
Art Wolf	Michael Wolfson
Catherine Morgan	Mike Rossi
Charla Powell	Olga Minaeva
Delois Andrews	Patricia Aragon
Dipak Ghosal	Pauline Jones
Elizabeth Der	Scott Longo
Jasmine Aye Chan San	Stacey Sciacqua
Joy Jennings	Susan Millar-Craig
Kalandra Robinson	Tina Mayer
Kayte Korwitts	Vivian Brailoff

Spelling Tips for Learners

Spelling Tip #1: Sky Writing

Most words in English follow spelling patterns. But some don't, so we need to **memorize** how to spell them.

Memorizing words is easier if you move your body. It helps your brain remember. Sky writing is a spelling activity that uses body movement.

Imagine you want to learn to spell the word **laugh**.

1. Write **laugh** in big letters on a notecard or paper on a table in front of you.
2. Stand up. Hold your arm straight out in front with two fingers pointed. Look at your card and use your arm to write the letters from the notecard in the air. Say the letters aloud as you write: **l a u g h**. Then say the word, **laugh**.
3. Look at the card. Try to remember each letter. Turn the card over so you can't see the word.
4. Again, use your arm to write the letters in the air: **l a u g h**. Say, **laugh**.
5. Turn the card **face up**. Use your finger to trace the letters while you say them: **l a u g h—laugh**.
6. Turn the card **face down**. Use your finger to write the word on the table: **l a u g h—laugh**.

Watch a video to help you understand how to move your arm: <https://tinyurl.com/skywrite>.

Spelling Tip #2: Memorizing the Spelling of Long Words

by PSC Learner Judy H.

As an English learner, I have to memorize the spelling of **various** words, at least, common useful words, but my **conundrum** is that I frequently have difficulty in doing this — words like *transportation*. It makes me **discouraged**.

My tutor, Bev, who has 40+ years of teaching experience, has taught me techniques to solve this problem. It's motivated me to learn more joyfully.

Here are the steps for one technique:

1. Say the word: *transportation*.
2. Say the word, splitting it into parts: *trans por ta tion*
3. Write down the **root**: *port*.
4. Add the **prefix**: *trans* before the root.
5. Add the **suffix** plus an *a*: *ation* after the root.

Looking at the whole word, it looks like you have four bricks building the word *transportation*.



Activities for Learners

Spring Word Search

Spring in the United States is a time of **rebirth**. Temperatures get **warmer**. Animals start to come out from their **dens** where they slept all winter. They shed their winter coats. **Birds** return from the south. Snow is **melting**. **Storms** continue, and some parts of the United States have **tornados** because **cool** air from the north **mixes** with warm air from the south. Trees start to **bud**, and all kinds of **flowers** begin to **bloom**. The **world** is coming back to **life**.

Spring



B	S	R	C	E	F	M	S	T	O	R	M	S	I
T	U	T	I	O	W	D	T	D	X	O	W	M	I
X	S	D	T	A	O	S	O	O	P	S	R	O	S
B	I	O	B	O	S	L	R	M	N	N	O	O	C
O	N	S	I	E	O	L	N	I	L	E	S	L	R
O	M	T	R	I	I	W	A	X	R	I	W	B	E
I	E	D	D	O	S	T	D	E	A	M	F	O	B
S	L	F	S	S	D	S	O	S	G	O	A	E	I
W	T	M	M	R	W	E	S	P	R	I	N	G	R
I	I	N	S	E	E	N	E	C	W	S	I	N	T
M	N	N	R	W	L	M	D	E	N	S	O	N	H
F	G	A	I	O	M	H	R	W	O	R	L	D	I
O	F	R	L	L	R	G	E	A	I	B	M	B	R
O	S	L	L	F	S	G	R	L	W	R	O	S	G

FLOWERS
MELTING
DENS
WORLD
BUD
BIRDS
REBIRTH
STORMS
COOL
TORNADOS
MIXES
SPRING
WARMER
LIFE
BLOOM

Answer key is on page 6.

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/5353669/>

Activity and News for Learners

Acrostic Poems for April (National Poetry Month)

Have you ever thought of turning your name into a poem? With an **acrostic** poem you can!

Use the first letters of your name, then write a word or phrase after each letter. For example, the name **Anna** could look like:

Always on time.

Never stops **working toward** her goals!

Neat and nice.

A loving mother, friend, and wife.

You can also do this with any word you would like to make into a poem. For example, I picked the word **cat**.

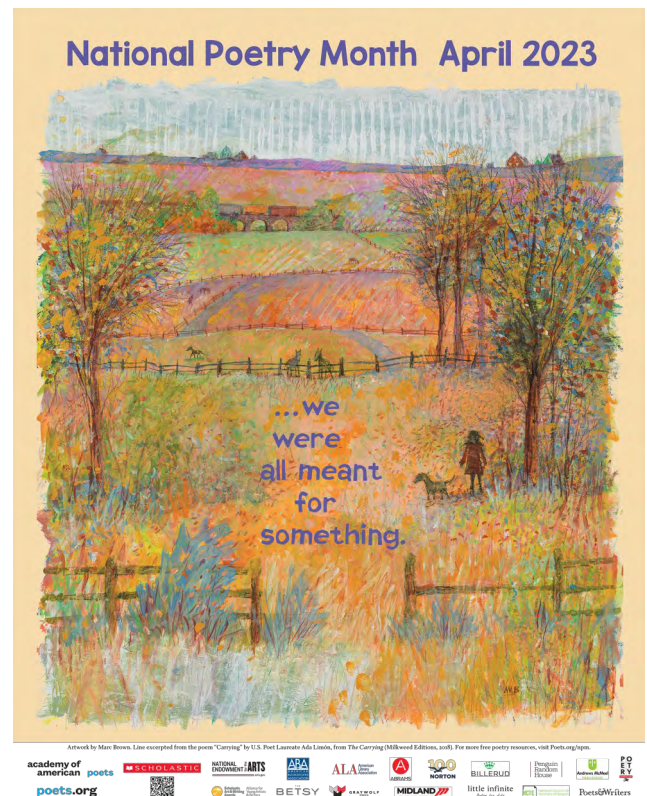
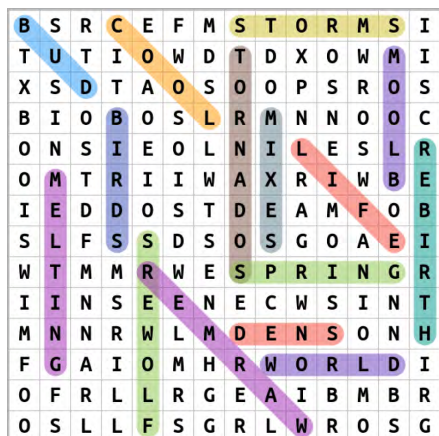
Curious

Animal

Tiny tiger

Now you try!

For more ideas, visit <https://ellii.com/blog/20-ideas-web-tools-resources-to-help-ells-compose-poetry>



Learners, PSC Needs Your Thoughts!

Learners, the PSC staff would like to hear about how your learning is going. We would also like to hear your ideas for the program. We will be hosting two learner **focus groups** on Zoom. These are groups where learners can share their thoughts about PSC.

Choose one time:

Thursday, April 13, 11 am-12 pm

Tuesday, April 18, 4-5 pm

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/PSClearnerfocus>

Tip for Tutors

Tutor Tip: Supporting Mastery Learning

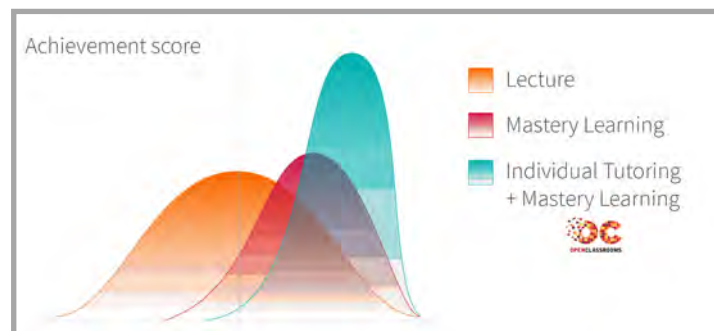
At Project Second Chance, you will hear a familiar refrain: You don't have to be a teacher to be a successful tutor. But why does one-on-one tutoring work?

In the 1980s, educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom conducted what's known as the "2 sigma" study. Bloom found that learners were reliably able to increase their learning by an impressive 2 sigma—for example, a C student becoming an A student—with two factors. Those factors were:

1. **One-on-one tutoring** Tutors support learner progress by "suggesting specific exercises and unlocking the individual student's potential on an ongoing basis and ensuring they truly 'get' the subject." (That's you, PSC tutors!)
2. **Mastery learning** or, understanding a topic well before moving on. One-on-one tutoring supports mastery learning because "the student is given the time to study the topic until they succeed in achieving this mastery, even if that takes longer than other students."

Try these best practices to help your learner achieve mastery learning and meet their goals:

Reading: To find just-right reading materials for your learner, pay attention to Lexile



Graphic from: [Solving The Education Conundrum Of Our Time: Bloom's 2 Sigma Problem \(Class Central\)](#)

levels. Lexile is a fancy word for difficulty. Ask your Tutor Learner Coordinator for tips on how to find Lexile levels. In addition, check out <http://www.newsela.com>, a website where you can change the Lexile levels of popular articles.

Writing: Keep a simple portfolio of work. For example, if your learner is working on writing paragraphs with transitions like "First," "Second," "Next," and "Lastly," keep samples of their work month to month, and compare entries over a span. Showing your learner examples of their progress toward mastery will keep you both motivated to keep going.

Take it slow! Mastery learning doesn't occur over night. Many long-time tutors have found that their learners need more repetition than they first anticipated.

Finally, ask your learner if they feel they are making progress and how. Just chatting with them about their daily lives may unearth progress too!

Article cited: [Solving The Education Conundrum Of Our Time: Bloom's 2 Sigma Problem \(Class Central\)](#)

Appreciation for Tutors

National Volunteer Week

April 16 to 22 is National Volunteer Week. Here at Project Second Chance, we give thanks to our volunteers every day! But the national week—which you can read about more [here](#)—gave us the excuse to reach out to some of our learners and ask them how they would phrase **appreciation** and thanks in their own words.

We hope you get as much delight reading them as we have!

"I thankful the people that give money, talent, and time for helping learn English. Thanks for all people do that." —Maria M.

"I am very fortunate to have my tutor because she gives me ideas of how to reach my goals, she is flexible with my schedule and sensitive to my needs." —Teolinda R.



"My tutor is knowledgeable about everything and he always helps me improve." —Ramon L.

"My tutor has the patience to explain to me words I don't understand." —Velia R.

"We (my tutor and I) finished 10 books and I got an award." —Kerretta F.

"I truly appreciate my tutor because she provided exceptional support during my difficult transition at work and helped me improve my business writing skills. Her guidance and expertise have been invaluable in my personal and professional development." —Takuto T.

Tutor Coffee Hour

Back by popular demand: PSC tutor coffee hours! Grab your favorite morning beverage and join other PSC tutors to talk about tutoring with PSC. We will host these informal events bimonthly. Our first coffee hours will be on Zoom. Our newest PSC staff members, Christina and Robin, will be at the April event to introduce themselves.

Wednesday, April 19, from 9:30-10:30 am on Zoom (link: <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeewithPSC>)

Wednesday, June 21, from 9:30-10:30 am, at the PSC Concord Office



Glossary

acrostic

a poem in which the first or last letter of each line spells a word

advanced

moved ahead

appreciation

thanks or gratefulness

biographies

books or stories about real people

celebrating

doing something special because of an event or occasion

conundrum

a hard problem

coordinating

putting something together, like a program or an event

curious

wanting to know or learn more

dedicated

working very hard at something

discouraged

no longer having confidence to continue a task

exciting

making you feel very happy and interested

face up /down

you can/can't see what is on the card

focus group

a small group of people who are asked questions about a business or product

inspiring

making someone have a feeling of hope

looked up

found the meaning of words

memorize

learn by remembering

movements

actions in which someone changes position

prefix

a word part that comes at the beginning

proudly

with a good feeling

be recognized

to tell everyone about

rebirth

to be born again

root

part of a word with the basic meaning

refrain

words that are repeated

sponsoring

to give money or support for

suffix

a word part that comes at the end

tiny

very small

various

many

working towards

make progress in something