



Welcome to Fall!

It's still hot outside, but fall is here. We have some fun events planned this fall. We have a Halloween event for families and coffee hours and a Lunch & Learn workshop for tutors. We also have **trick-or-treating** at two PSC offices. We hope to see you at some of these events!

We welcomed 16 new tutors in August. We have a few spots left in our October tutor training. If you know someone who would be a good PSC tutor, please let them know about our program! They can visit ccclib.org/psc to get started. We have many learners waiting for a tutor right now.

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

News for Learners & Tutors

Coming in 2024: PSC Potluck and Cookbook!

PSC is turning 40 in 2024! We will have some special events to **celebrate**.

Learners and tutors, do you have a favorite **recipe**? Would you share the **recipe** with other learners and tutors?

On Thursday, January 18, we will have a **potluck** at the PSC Concord office from 6:30–7:30 pm. You can cook something you like and bring a copy of the **recipe** to share (ask your tutor if you need help). We will make a little cookbook with all of the **recipes** to share with the PSC community.

If you cannot come to the potluck, you can still send a **recipe** for the cookbook! Please email your **recipe** to psc@library.cccounty.us, send it in the mail, or give it to PSC staff by January 18.



Trick or Treat for Books at PSC

Tuesday, October 31, 2–5 pm

Concord and San Pablo PSC offices

Celebrate Halloween at PSC! Stop by the PSC offices in Concord or San Pablo on the afternoon of Halloween. We will be giving out candy and free books for kids and adults. Learners, tutors, friends, and family members are all welcome!



Family Literacy Corner: Halloween Family Book Club

Wednesday, October 25, 4–5 pm

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/OctoberFamilyReads>

Celebrate Halloween with PSC! We will be reading *A Spoonful of Frogs* by Casey Lyall and doing a pumpkin craft. All families with kids ages 3–8 will get a copy of the book and activity in the mail. We hope to see you—parents, grandparents, and children—there!

Learner Achievements

Learner Completions

Zachary W. completed *Wilson Step 1* with his tutor, Dee A.

Brenda C. completed *Journey to Success Book 4* with her tutor, Yvonne F.

Boubacar D. finished *Writing Skills Book 1* with tutor Jacqueline B.

Junghwa Y. finished *Journey to Success 2* with tutor Marc H.

Ramon L. finished *Journey to Success 6* with tutor Marc H.

Laura Y. completed *Writing Skills 1* with tutor Fiorella R.

Beatriz S. finished *Confidence and Connections 2L* with tutor Paul W.

Learner Achievements

Joy J. applied for a library card with help from tutor Stacey S. Way to go the both of you!

With the support of her tutor Leslie S., **Ferozan M.** read *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Good job, Ferozan!

With the support of her tutor Nancy A., **Maria M.** was able to **renew** her daughter's passport. Great job, Maria!

Elaine W. reports she is **thrilled** to have packed a book for pleasure-reading for the first time ever while vacationing! Way to make that goal, Elaine!



According to tutor Sue K., **Onesha E.** recently started a new job driving for a local school **district**. Well done, Onesha!

Tutor Robin B. is very proud of **Daphne S.**, who recently passed her driver's license test. That's so exciting!

After a lot of hard work with tutor Vivian B., **Natalya S.** passed the food handler's test and her driver's test. Now, she is **tackling** a manager's test. Keep up the good work, Natalya!

Good news! Tutor Gitte S. reports that **Aseyeh A.** got her library card.

Aurelia R. and tutor Kathleen M. took a field trip to Annie's Annuals where she was able to successfully **navigate** the customer check out and even open an account. Sounds like a fun hands-on success!

Gerald C. read *The Little Prince* with her tutor Sharon E., all while tutoring long distance. Great job you two!

Saroj W. read a book about Nelson Mandela with her tutor Jeanne K. Way to go!

Reminder: Learner Travel Program Available

Learners, we know that **transportation** is expensive. Does this make it hard for you to come to tutoring? PSC, Inc. is buying Clipper cards and Lyft and Uber gift cards to help learners with travel to tutoring.

If you want to request a card, please fill out this form online: <https://tinyurl.com/PSCtravel23>. You can ask your tutor or call the PSC office for help.



Become a Published Author! *In Our Words* 2024

Every year PSC publishes a book of student writing called *In Our Words*. 2024 is PSC's 40th anniversary, so we are hoping to make *In Our Words* extra special this year.

All PSC learners are invited to write stories for this book. You can write about any topic. Personal stories about your life, family, and experiences are the most popular. Many PSC tutors and learners work on these stories during tutoring time.

Here's how you can participate:

- Write up to three stories (handwritten, typed and printed, or a Word file).
- Each story should be 400 words or less.
- Use your own words and don't worry that it has to be perfect.
- **Due date April 1, 2024**

Give your story to your tutor-learner coordinator or email it to PSC at psc@library.cccounty.us. Everyone in the PSC program will get a copy of *In Our Words*. The book will be ready on June 15, 2024, at the annual PSC celebration event.



Welcome New Tutors!

Aaron Cundy	Kathleen Jones
Bennett Berke	Kathleen Smith
Caroline Rogers	Maggie Johnson
Divya Sampat	Nancy Van Der Veer
Dresden John	Nancy Wong
Elaine Martens	Patricia Silveira
Gregory Miller	Sandra Lee
Jared Prell	Wren Montijo

Activities for Learners

Writing Activity: **Recipes** for First-Time Authors

It is fall, and the holidays are coming. Many people make special food to **celebrate**. Try the easy recipe at right by PSC learner Helen G. for Pumpkin Sesame Balls.

Do you have a special recipe that you'd like to share with the PSC community? Write it down (your tutor can help you) and share it with us at PSC 2024 **potluck** and cookbook event. See the story on page 2 for more information.



Conversation Club for Beginning ESL Learners

Are you using the *Confidence and Connections* textbook? Do you want to practice your conversation skills?

PSC will host a weekly Conversation Club for beginning ESL learners starting Wednesday, October 18 through Wednesday, November 8. The topics will be about health.

More information will be sent directly to beginning ESL learners and their tutors.

Pumpkin Sesame Balls

by Helen G.

This recipe is good even for someone who is new to cooking.

Ingredient:

Pumpkin (200g)

Sugar (60g)

Rice powder (280g)

Sesame

Vegetable oil

Method:

1. **Peel** the pumpkin, slice into thin pieces, put them in the pot and **steam** for 10–15 mins.
2. Add 60g sugar to the pumpkin, **mash** it into **paste**.
3. Add 280g rice powder, stir until it is mix well, and **knead** it into a smooth dough.
4. Roll it into **logs**, and cut into pieces. Roll it into balls. Dip each ball in clean water, coat with sesame.
5. Heat the oil until it comes up to 500–600 degrees, put it in the ball. When it **floats**, becomes bigger, until golden brown, then take them out.



Earthquake Activity Answers

Vocabulary Match

1. b 2. f 3. l 4. h 5. c 6. d 7. k 8. g
9. e 10. a 11. j 12. i

Activity and News for Learners

Real Life Reading: Earthquakes

On October 17, 1989, there was a large earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area. It had a 6.9 **magnitude**, caused the deaths of 63 people, and **injured** more than 3,700. You are likely going to experience an earthquake if you live in Contra Costa County. So, it is best to be prepared.



Visit the U.S. government’s website www.ready.gov/earthquakes to read about how to prepare for an earthquake. Then, try to complete the activities below. Ask your tutor for help if you need it. Answers are page 5.

Vocabulary Match

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. excursions | a. very large waves |
| 2. alleviating | b. short journeys away from your main path |
| 3. urgent | c. strong, well made, and not easily broken |
| 4. secure | d. pieces leftover after the object is destroyed |
| 5. sturdy | e. small earthquakes that follow a larger one |
| 6. debris | f. making something less painful |
| 7. vital | g. things that are dangerous |
| 8. hazards | h. tie or fasten something firmly in place |
| 9. aftershocks | i. stopping something from working well |
| 10. tsunamis | j. a mixture of human waste and water |
| 11. sewage | k. needed to keep someone alive |
| 12. suppression | l. very important; needs to be dealt with now |

Additional Activities

- Watch one of the videos listed under “Additional Resources” on the government website, and discuss with a tutor, friend, or family member.
- Create a family emergency communications plan.
- Visit www.shakeout.org to register and participate in “The Great ShakeOut” (earthquake drill) at 10:19 a.m. on October 19, 2023.

News and Events for Tutors



In Person Lunch & Learn: Supporting and Correcting Learner Writing

Friday, December 1, 11:45 am–1:30pm

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

We are excited to offer a workshop for tutors from national literacy expert Kathy St. John! Kathy will be sharing a fun and informative hands-on workshop that will help you understand how and when to correct your learner's writing.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by completing this form by November 15:
<https://tinyurl.com/PSCLunchandLearn>.

Thanks to our friends at PSC, Inc. for making this event possible.

Looking for more tutoring lesson ideas?
Save the date for our first **Tutor Skill-Up!**

Friday, January 5 from 12–1 p.m. on Zoom

Stay tuned for more information by email
and in our next newsletter.

ESL Tutor Workshop:

Supporting Conversation Practice with Your Beginning ESL Learner

Thursday, December 7 at 2–3:30 pm on
Zoom

Have you just started working with a low conversation ESL learner? Please join us as we discuss textbooks, materials, and strategies for increasing time spent having conversations during your tutoring sessions.

Please register for the ESL Tutor Workshop by emailing psc@library.cccounty.us on or before Friday, December 1, 2023.

Tutor Coffee

Tutors, we invite you to join us for one of our upcoming tutor coffee gatherings.

Consider bringing:

- a tutoring tale, tip, or question
- a beverage of choice
- anything else you want to share

Friday, October 20, 9:30–10:30
Brentwood Library (Community Room)

Wednesday, October 25, 10–11
San Pablo Library

Wednesday, December 20, 9:30–10:30
Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeewithPSC>



Tips and News for Tutors

Tutor Tip: Financial Literacy

Does your learner have goals related to money, banking, or paying bills? Then this resource might be for you!

The Consumer Financial Protection Agency has a searchable database of lesson plans and activities on a variety of financial literacy topics. Each activity comes with free downloadable student materials (handouts, worksheets, etc.) and a teacher's guide. The database is located at <https://tinyurl.com/TeachFinancialLit>

Additionally, their website offers a lot of information in multiple languages, including English-Spanish and English-Korean glossaries. And complaints can be submitted by phone (855-411-2372) in 180 languages. Visit www.consumerfinance.gov/language/ to access resources in languages other than English.



PSC, Inc. Corner

The information in this section is provided by PSC, Inc., Project Second Chance's supporting nonprofit organization.

Arriving in your mailboxes soon will be PSC, Inc.'s annual appeal letter. Similar to a "Friends of the Library" group, we've been PSC's nonprofit fundraising and advocacy group for over 35 years. This year, PSC, Inc. is funding approximately half of PSC's budget for costs other than building expenses and salaries, including:

- 56% of adult literacy materials
- 63% of staff training expenses
- 78% of program advertising and marketing costs
- 90% of event costs

Donations can be made on our website, pscfundraising.org, or by check. If you'd prefer to donate items, we have also started an Amazon gift list with supplies that Project Second Chance needs: <https://tinyurl.com/PSCAmazonList>.

Your financial support is always appreciated but never expected. Thank you for all of the ways that you contribute to Project Second Chance's mission!

Glossary

according

as said by

celebrate

show that an event, day, or person is important by doing something fun

district

an area of a city or county

floats

becomes light so stays on the top of the water

Injured

hurt or wounded

knead

to press many times with your hands

logs

long pieces of rolled dough



magnitude

the strength of an earthquake

mash

press on cooked food to make it lose its shape

navigate

to understand and deal with something hard

paste

food that is mashed until it is smooth, soft, and thick

peel

cut the outside skin off a vegetable or fruit

potluck

a meal where everyone brings food

pumpkin

an orange vegetable in the squash family



recipe

a written plan of how to cook a food dish

renew

to have something continue for more time

sesame

tiny seeds used in cooking

steam

cook using the hot, wet air from boiling water

tackling

trying to deal with a problem

transportation

things that move people: cars, trains, buses, boats, planes, horses, etc.

thrilled

very happy

trick-or-treating

wearing a costume and asking for candy on Halloween

