



## PSC Celebrates Growth!

We are proud of the ways our learners are growing, like meeting goals and writing stories for *In Our Words*. Tutors grow as they become more **confident** and learn new things, too. We are also proud as we see our program grow. We have many new tutors and learners. We also have a new staff member, Zalma. You can read more about Zalma on page 2.

Help PSC grow by telling a friend about our program. This spring, you can get a free gift card for sending a new learner or tutor to PSC. For more information, see page 4.

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You can find the meaning of words in **purple** in the Glossary on page 8.

# News for Learners & Tutors

## Meet Zalma! PSC's Newest Staff Member

Hello, my name is Zalma Gallardo, and I'm happy to be part of PSC as the new library literacy assistant.



Before coming to PSC, I studied **cognitive** science and helped ESL high school students learn English, so I'm excited to help with PSC's literacy goals. I love learning about how our brain works and how language helps us understand the world. When I worked with ESL students, I saw how learning to read and write opens so many **opportunities** for people.

Being one of the first in my family to **attend** college, I deeply **value** the importance of education. This personal experience has **driven** my **commitment** to **ensuring** that everyone, regardless of their background, has **access** to education, especially literacy. I think everyone should have a chance to learn to read and write, no matter what **challenges** they face. That's why I'm **passionate** about helping adults improve their literacy skills. I believe it can change their lives for the better. I want to help learners reach their goals, whether that's getting a better job, helping their kids with homework, or just feeling more **confident** in everyday life.

In my free time, I like spending time with family, reading, and going to music events. I look forward to getting to know all of you and working together.

## 40th Anniversary Celebration Reminder

Invitations for our PSC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be coming soon. We hope that you can join us for a **delicious** lunch, music, new *In Our Words* book, and much more. We hope to see you there!

### PSC 40th Anniversary Community Celebration

Saturday, June 15, from 12-2 p.m.

Lafayette Library Community Hall

RSVP by June 5 to [psc@library.cccounty.us](mailto:psc@library.cccounty.us)

## Family Reading Event About Malala

For our PSC Reads program, we have books by Malala Yousafzai for kids! This spring, we will send these books to PSC



families in our family literacy program. We will send books that are right for your children's age. Then, we will have an event on Zoom for kids and parents. We will read *Malala's Magic Pencil*, talk about the book, and do a fun art project.

Anyone can come, but this book is best for kids ages 5-10. We hope that you can join us!

Wednesday, May 8, from 4-5 p.m.

Zoom link: <http://tinyurl.com/MalalasPencilPSC>

# News for Learners & Tutors

## Learner Completions

Angela S.—*Wilson Reading System Step 3* with Leslie M.

Elena S.—*Confidence and Connections 4L* with Sue K.

Fernando Y.—*Confidence and Connections 3L* with Ann R.

Junghwa Y.—*Journey to Success 3* with Marc H.

Kalsoom K.—*Patterns in Spelling Book 1* with Clare S.

Laura Y.—*Writing Skills 1* with Fiorella R.

Yuko M.—*50 Conversations Classes* with Terri M.

Zachary W.—*Wilson Step 2* with Delois A.

## Learner Achievements

Olga L. finished reading *Spare* by Prince Harry with Rich V. Terrific, Olga!

Ramon L. passed his **plumber certification license** and became a U.S. **citizen** with the help of tutor Marc H. Double congratulations to Ramon!

Lillian O. wrote and submitted her first letter in English for the Writer-to-Writer **challenge** with the help of tutor Ann Marie F. Lillian wrote to author Mitch Albom. Yay, Lillian!

Cendy C. read *The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party* by Marian Calabro with her tutor Carole T. Great job, Cendy!

Tutor Kim S. shared that Mesert W. passed her U.S. **citizenship** test and is now a U.S. citizen. Congratulations!

Claudia A. got a library card and checked out a Lite Reads **collection** book, *The Orchard* by Catherine Temma Davidson. Tutor Gwen L. is super excited for her! So are we!

Annie Z. got a library card, checked out a book, read the whole thing with her tutor Charla P., and then took it home and reread it. Welcome new library user, Annie!

Tutor Nancy V. reports that Sepideh N. also recently got her library card. That's fantastic!

Emily H. passed her driving test, reports tutor Kathleen R. That's a big **achievement!**

Xochil S. read and discussed *The House on Mango Street* with her tutor Bennett B. Fantastic work, Xochil!

Amparo O. completed *Spelling Patterns* with her tutor Virginia H. Great job!

Tutor Barbara B. reports that Yurany S. completed Unit 25 on the online computer program Off2Class with 92 percent! Congratulations!

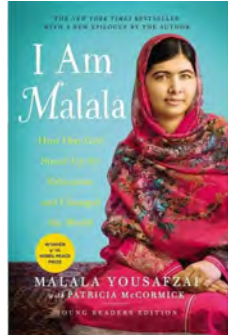
Tutor Sandy S. reports that Lucie S. read *Bigfoot* by Erin Peabody and wrote 5 things she learned from it. That's a big step, Lucie!

Marcela V. has finished reading two novels by John Grisham with the help of her tutor Candace B. After finishing *The Judge's List* and *The Exchange*, Marcela has decided to **tackle** *The Firm* next. Happy reading!

# News for Learners & Tutors

## PSC Reads: *I am Malala* Dates

It's not too late to join PSC's countywide reading of *I am Malala*! Free books are available until May 1—just ask a staff member. Then join us for a book talk, either online or in person:



### On Zoom:

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/PSCMalalaBookTalk>

OR

### In Person:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 3-4 p.m.

at the PSC Concord office, 2151 Salvio St.

\*Events are open to ALL PSC learners and tutors (even if you haven't finished the book!)\*

## Welcome, New Tutors!

Amrita Randhawa	Linda Miller
Anne Ogonowski	Lynette Thompson
Caroll Pena	Lynn Eve Komaromi
Cheryl Geckeler	Melanie Falo
Connie Miller	Mona Maog
Erica Backus	Andi Mercado
Etanna Pennello	Paul Jacobs
Frank Escalante	Ron Elsdon
Haydee Claus	Scott Hashimoto
Heidi Hallford	Sue Levins
LaDawn Cook	William Duffy
Leona Jones	

## Tell a Friend About PSC, Get a Gift Card!

PSC is looking for new learners and tutors, and we need your help! You can tell a friend about PSC and get a \$20 gift card to Starbucks or Target.

Here's how it will work. Tell your friends, family members, or neighbors about our program. When they come to PSC as a new learner or tutor, we will ask them how they learned about PSC. If they share your name, we will call or email you. We will ask you to pick Starbucks or Target for your gift card.

For every person you refer, you will receive another \$20 gift card. The learner and tutor who tell the most people about us by June 30 will get an extra \$50 Target gift card! Thank you to PSC, Inc. for [sponsoring](#) this program.



## PSC, Inc. Corner

Tutors, you'll be receiving an email in the next few weeks for PSC, Inc.'s spring appeal campaign. Donations directly support PSC's programming in ways that county and state funding cannot, from "keeper" textbooks for learners to subscriptions to news sources like *News for You* and Newsela and learning software like EnGen and Lexia.

You can donate online at [pscfundraising.org](https://pscfundraising.org). Thank you for your support!



# Activity for Learners

## The Three Sounds of -ed

English sounds can be put into two groups. Some sounds make your throat **vibrate** and some don't. Put your hand on your throat and say the sound of the letter k (like the first sound of kite); there should be no **vibration**. Now, put your hand on your throat and say the sound of g (like the first sound of game); you should feel a **vibration**. Vowel sounds **vibrate**.

The **suffix** -ed can make three different sounds when you add it to the end of a word. It can say the sound of t, the sound of d, or "ed." The sound it makes changes based on the last sound of the base word. Does the last sound in the word **vibrate**? Then, say the d sound for -ed. If it doesn't **vibrate**, say the t sound. And if the last sound of the word is a t sound or a d sound, then say "ed" for -ed.

For example, the last sound of the word help is the sound of p. Since it has no **vibration**, you say the t sound for -ed. You say helped as "helpt." The last sound of the word note is a t sound, so you say -ed as "ed" in noted. And finally, the last sound of the word hum is "mmmm." Since "mmmm" **vibrates**, you say hummed as "humd."

Sort the following words into groups. If the **suffix** -ed in the word has the t sound, put it in the group on the left. If -ed says the d sound, put it in the middle group. If -ed says "ed," put it in the last group on the right.

added	coughed	kissed
beeped	filled	patted
begged	hated	played
blended	kicked	rubbed

-ed says t sound	-ed says d sound	-ed says "ed"

Answers:  
-ed says t sound: beeped, coughed, coughed (cough ends in the f sound), kicked, kissed  
-ed says d sound: begged, filled, played, played (play ends in the long a sound), rubbed  
-ed says "ed": added, blended, hated, patted

# Tip for Tutors

## Using Newsela

PSC is always looking for engaging content for our adult learners while they work to improve reading. Our learners are interested in current events, and many of our learners' goals relate to reading a newspaper.

Newspapers like *The San Francisco Chronicle* or *The New York Times* are written above a high school level, which is out of reach for many of our learners.

So that is why PSC really likes Newsela: [www.newsela.com](http://www.newsela.com). We encourage tutors to explore this unique news site.

Newsela offers:

- **Choice:** Learners or tutors—or both—can choose which articles they want to read. There is a wide variety! A recent search of the site showed articles titled “Beyoncé becomes first Black woman to top billboard country music chart” to “Sweden Officially Joins NATO.”
- **Lexile Level Options:** This is our favorite feature. You can adjust the Lexile level, or difficulty of text level, of each article. For example, the Beyoncé article mentioned above can be read at the easiest level of 610 Lexile (about a 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade level) to an above high school Lexile level. Tutors can challenge their learners to read the same article at different levels. Also, tutors can note progress when their learners are



reading more comfortably at higher Lexile levels. If you do not know the Lexile level of your learner, please reach out to your tutor/learner coordinator.

- **Listening:** If the reading level is above your learner's level or you just want to practice reading in a multisensory way, there is a listening option for each article.
- **Comprehension Practice:** There are before and after reading activities that go with the articles. Newsela lists the main idea of the article before you read.
- **Sharing:** Newsela is easy to access. You can share screens if tutoring virtually, or print the articles out.

Are you interested in looking at Newsela more closely? Get a walk-through of PSC's Newsela Essentials account with our program manager Elaine from this link: <https://tinyurl.com/PSCNewsela>. If you are interested in signing up for a tutor account, reach out to your tutor/learner coordinator for instructions on how to get started.

## Learn About the Latest from Off2Class

PSC has a subscription to Off2Class, which offers high-quality online ESL lessons that



tutors can access. Interested in trying Off2Class with your learner? Have questions as a current user? Join Off2Class staff for a tour of the site, introduction to some new features, and a Q&A session.

**Friday, April 19, from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Google Meet link to follow by email

## Save the Date: PSC Spring Lunch & Learn

Tutors, please save the date for a Lunch & Learn at PSC! The topic will be cultural competency and anti-bias work for tutors. The presenter will be Dr. Lori A. Watson. PSC and Library staff have trained with Dr. Watson and have found her style to be thoughtful, approachable, and kind. This is a much-requested topic among PSC tutors, and we're glad to be able to share this training with you.

Lunch will be provided. More information and an RSVP form will follow by email. Thanks to PSC, Inc. for sponsoring this event!

**Friday, June 21, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

PSC Concord office

## Next Round of Tutor Skill Ups

PSC tutor Skill Ups are short virtual meetings where staff share strategies and resources that you can use in your lessons. It also offers you the chance to meet and chat with fellow tutors.

To join any Skill Up, click on <https://tinyurl.com/PSCTutorSkillUp>. There is no need to RSVP—just show up!

The dates, times, and planned topics for the next three months include:

**Friday, April 5, 12–1 p.m.:** Helping Your Learner Write Poetry (to celebrate National Poetry Month)

**Friday, May 3, 12–1 p.m.:** Planning Your Lessons with Artificial Intelligence (AI)

**Friday, June 7, 12–1 p.m.:** Using Newsela in Your Lessons

Also, if you missed one of the Skill Ups from earlier this year, you can find them in the Learning Community on America Learns. Just use “skill ups” as your search term.

## PSC Reads: Tutor Support

This PSC Reads Zoom session is designed to help tutors coach their learner while reading *I am Malala*, our first PSC Reads selection in 2024. Learn pre-, during, and post-reading strategies for different level learners. Leave with vocab lists, *Malala* discussion questions, resources, tips, and more. No registration, just come.

**Tuesday, April 9, 12-1 p.m.**

<https://tinyurl.com/PSCTutorReadsSupport>

# Glossary

## access

the chance to get

## achievement

something important that you do

## attend

go to

## certification

saying someone is allowed to do a certain job

## challenges

things that are difficult but interesting

## citizen

someone who legally belongs to a country

## citizenship

the legal right to belong in a county

## cognitive

about knowing, learning, or understanding

## confident

very sure

## collection

a group of similar books

## commitment

promise

## delicious

very nice to taste and smell

## driven

trying very hard

## ensuring

making sure will happen

## license

a document that gives says someone can do something

## opportunities

chances to do something

## orchard

a place where fruit trees grow



## passionate

liking something a lot

## perilous

full of danger

## plumber

someone who fixes water pipes

## sponsoring

paying for

## suffix

a common word ending

## tackle

to try to deal with a problem

## value

think is important or useful

## vibrate

to shake quickly with a lot of small movements

## vibration

a continuing, small shaking movement