



## Thank you for your help!

This summer, PSC asked for your help. We asked you to tell your friends about the program. You helped us a lot! We have over 30 new learners and tutors who learned about PSC from a friend. Congratulations to **Luz C.**, who told **eight** friends about PSC! Luz won an extra \$50 gift card to Target.

We hope that this newsletter will help you in a few ways. We have an activity to help you learn more about voting. We also share information about a few upcoming events. We hope these events will help you in your tutoring sessions.

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

## PSC Bridge Course Highlights

By Ali Tubio

In July 2024, I had the **pleasure** of teaching a beginner ESL class at Project Second Chance. The learners worked hard, and we had **a blast!** Here are three **highlights**:



Teacher Ali Tubio (back, center) with the July 2024 ESL class members, Mahsoma, Farida, Eliana, Gema, Maria Dolores, and Liudmyla

1. Learners loved practicing their English with our special guests: they presented an "I am" **collage** with pictures and words about themselves to PSC workers, practiced conversation questions with previous PSC **tutees**, and presented about their hobbies to PSC tutors!
2. Real-world activities were helpful to practice English. Learners worked on food vocabulary by visiting the Concord Farmers Market and asking the farmers questions. They also created a weather report with cities around the world and searched for apartments with a classmate.
3. Lastly, we played fun pronunciation games to practice **tricky** sounds (for example, 16 vs. 60; slip vs. sleep). Learners used **fly swatters** to slap the correct sound before the other team!

## Family Literacy Corner: Family Voting Event!



PSC families, you are invited to PSC's Family Voting Event!! There will be free pizza, voting activities for kids, and a storytime at the event.

**When:** Tuesday, October 1 from 5:30–6:30 pm

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

We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, call the PSC office 925-691-3960.



## October: A Month to Celebrate Dyslexia and Its Unique Strengths

October is Dyslexia **Awareness** Month. Dyslexia is a learning difference that makes reading, writing, and spelling harder. It is not about how smart someone is; it just means the brain works differently with words.

People with dyslexia are as smart as everyone else. They have special strengths and see things in **unique** ways. Each person with dyslexia has their own experience, which makes them special. Let's honor people with dyslexia by learning about their **unique** qualities and how they experience the world.

Project Second Chance is proud to support people with dyslexia and anyone who needs extra help with reading and writing.

Enjoy these photos of some of our learners participating in the "1 in 5: The Face of Dyslexia" photo project a few months ago.



## PSC Reads Fall Book: *Discovering Wes Moore*

Tutors and Learners, it's not too late to join the PSC Reads fall book club. Books are still available until November 1! We are reading *Discovering Wes Moore*, by the current Governor of Maryland, Wes Moore. He is a very successful man, but his life almost went a different direction. Get a copy of the book and learn more about him! Then join PSC staff and other PSC community members at a book club. We are offering TWO book clubs—one in person and the other on Zoom.

**Zoom event:** Thursday, December 5, 6:30–7:30 p.m.; <https://tinyurl.com/PSCWesMoore>

**In-person event:** Tuesday, December 10, 10-11 a.m.; PSC Concord office, 2151 Salvio St.

# News for Learners & Tutors

## Learner Completions

**Martha G.** completed Confidence and Connections 2R with her tutor, Amara B.

**Xochil S.** completed WorldlyWise book 7 with her tutor, Bennett B.

**Maria M.** finished Confidence and Connections 3L with her tutor, Jared P.

**Catherine Mei Hung N.** completed Confidence and Connections 3R with her tutor, Lynette T.

**Walid R.** completed Wilson Step 6 with his tutor, Susie.

**Jim T.** completed Wilson Step 5 with his tutor, Laura H.

**Dhondup W.** completed Confidence & Connections 1L with tutor Lynn Eve K.

## Learner Achievements

**Jihuyn L.** finished reading *I am Malala* over the summer reported her tutor, Judith. Keep up the great work, Jihuyn!

**Larisa V.** passed her driver's license exam. Thank you, Ron E., for letting us know! Way to Go, Larisa!

Way to go, **Keuna B.!** She recently passed the citizenship test. She truly appreciates all the support her tutor, Rob V., gave her throughout the process.

# Congratulations



Many congratulations to **Roy D.**, who completed all twelve books of the Wilson Reading System with his tutor, Julie H. They worked together for three years. Now we call Roy “Mr. Crossword Puzzles”!

Tutor Haydee C. shared **Vianey C.’s** paragraphs **detailing** Vianey’s recent trips to Mexico and introducing her children to her family there. The paragraphs were descriptive and heartwarming and displayed a lot of progress in writing!

With the support of tutor Glen T., **Lhamo T.** held Tibetan storytimes at three public libraries the summer. Over 100 people attended the first event in the San Pablo Library. Congratulations, Lhamo!

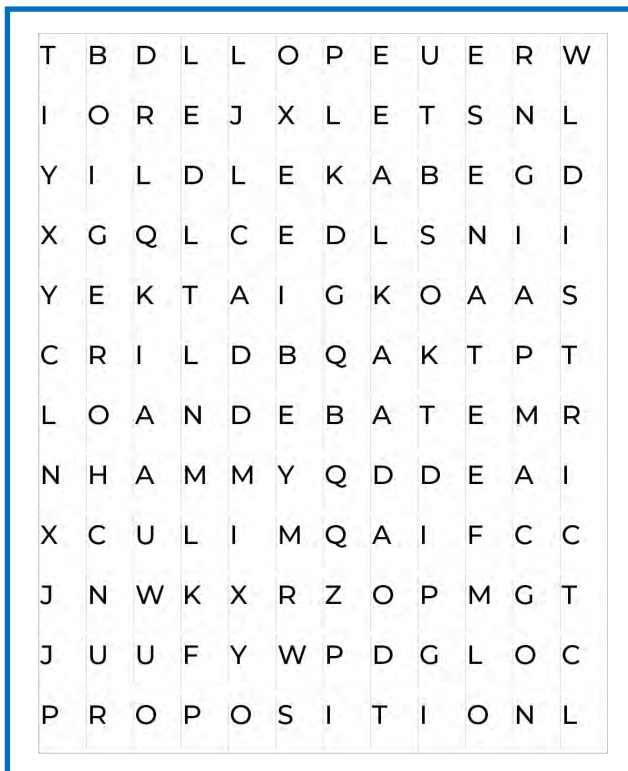
# Activity for Learners

## U.S. Election 2024: Voting Guide and Puzzle Activity

Are you interested in the upcoming election in the United States? Visit the [News for You Voting Guide](#) and then answer the questions below and complete the election vocabulary word search puzzle.



1. How many people voted in the 2020 presidential election?
2. What are two reasons people should vote?
3. What is the Electoral College?
4. True or False: A person doesn't have to belong to a **political party** to run for office.
5. Name one website you can visit to learn more about the **candidates** and **issues** for the next election.
6. What are three ways you can **sort through** your thoughts after a debate?
7. Visit [The Living Room Candidate](#) and watch one of the ads from 2004. What did you think about the ad? Was it **factual** or emotional? Did you think the ad was **effective**?
8. Fill in the blank: Many states require people to register \_\_\_\_\_ days before Election Day.



- Find these words:
- ballot
- campaign
- candidate
- debate
- delegate
- district
- election
- poll
- primary
- proposition

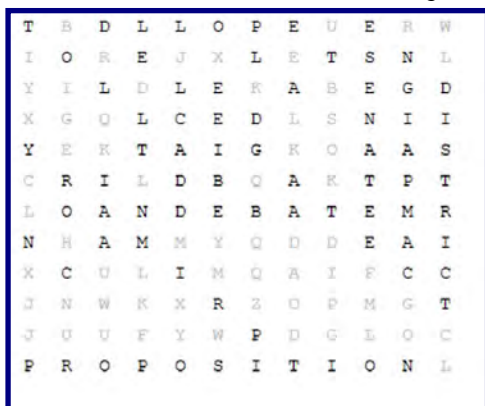
Answers: page 6



## Election Activity Answers

1. 67% of voting-age citizens or 154.6 million people
2. Any two of the following: you care about the environment, you have family members who want to move to the U.S., you have children in school or are in school yourself, or you are looking for a good job
3. A group of citizens selected by the people to **cast votes** for the president
4. True
5. Any of the following: [rockthevote.org](http://rockthevote.org), [vote411.org](http://vote411.org), [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org), or [politifact.com](http://politifact.com)
6. Any three of the following: talking with others, asking yourself if you learned something new, finding issues that you agree or disagree with each candidate, figuring out which questions you still have, getting more information from the news or websites, or watching a later debate
7. Answers will vary.
8. 30

### Word Search Answer Key



“Learning to read means the world to me. I used to have no self-esteem. Now I am proud of myself and I’m no longer closed off.”

~Elaine

## Native English Speaker Support Group

Are you a PSC learner whose first language is English and is working with a tutor to improve reading? If so, please join us for a fun group meeting of fellow learners on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the Antioch Library, 501 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street. From 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the group will:

- Share accomplishments
- Offer encouragement
- Eat yummy sandwiches

We made new friends at our last meeting in March. We hope to see you again. If you have questions, please email Leslie at [leslie.mladinich@library.cccounty.us](mailto:leslie.mladinich@library.cccounty.us).

## One Sentence Book Review

*Fish in a Tree* by Linda Mullaly Hunt

This book was about a little girl who had dyslexia. I think other people with dyslexia should read it if they can. For people that don't know about dyslexia, this would be a good start to understanding.

—Alan P., PSC learner

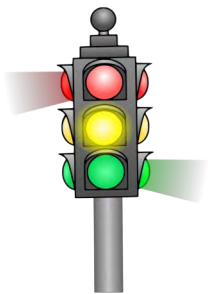
## Learner Self-Reflection

Ali Tubio is an English as a Second Language instructor with 15 years of experience teaching at community colleges and most recently, the Project Second Chance Bridge class. See article on page 2.



Ali offers this tip for having learners monitor progress.

“It can be hard for learners to see their progress. Create a list of specific tasks worked on over the last month (*example- “I can write a sentence about my family”*) and have learners reflect on their learning using a “stoplight” picture next to each item. Each color means:



**Red** = STOP! I need more explanation and examples.

**Yellow** = I still need some practice.

**Green** = GO! I understand, and I can do this by myself.

Have the learner talk to you about where they are on the stoplight. This gives you insight for lessons and keeps learners motivated.”

## Welcome PSC Tutors!



These tutors completed our August training in Antioch. Thank you for being part of PSC!

Elinor Bell	Karen Rios
Shauna Cramer	Olga Smith
Leslie Jaffin	Stephen Son
Cynthia Kay	Marian Trebotich
Jennifer Kline	Yvette Williams
Lijia Lumsden	Avril Zielin-Brodey

## PSC, Inc. Corner

If you’re new to PSC, you may not know about PSC, Inc., Project Second Chance’s supporting 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Similar to a “Friends of the Library” group, PSC, Inc. helps fund Project Second Chance’s needs beyond what the County and State provide, including copies of textbooks that learners can keep, Zoom accounts for pair use, support for tutor trainings, and much more. The all-volunteer PSC, Inc. Board consists of current and former PSC tutors.

Each fall, PSC, Inc. sends an appeal letter to volunteers and friends of the program. Tax-deductible donations directly support Project Second Chance’s work. Be on the lookout for the appeal letter in your email inbox in the near future. Whether or not you contribute, thanks for your ongoing support of PSC!

# News for Tutors

## Tutors: Save the Date for Our Next Lunch & Learn

Kathy St. John, who hosted last year's popular tutor workshop on writing, will be rejoining us for a workshop on "Game-Changing Strategies to Help Learners Understand and Remember What They Read." Lunch will be provided. More details will follow by email in October.

**Friday, November 15, 11:45 am-1:30 pm**  
PSC Concord Office

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## Zoom Whiteboard Q&A Session

Tutors: If you have a PSC Zoom tutor account, then you have automatic access to Zoom Workplace's new and improved whiteboard tool. It's a terrific alternative to Google's soon-to-be defunct Jamboard because its functionality is so similar if not better (no need to share you screen!).

Come to this Q&A session and learn more about this exciting interactive platform. Bring any tips and tricks you've discovered to share with us all!

**Friday, October 18, 12-1 p.m;**  
<https://tinyurl.com/PSCwhiteboardQA>



## Upcoming Tutor Skill Ups

During Tutor Skill Ups, PSC staff present on instructional methods and resources you can use in your lessons, and then you will have the opportunity to chat with fellow tutors.

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

All Tutor Skill Ups are from 12-1 p.m. The dates and topics for the remainder of 2024 include:

**Friday, October 4:** Helping Your Learner Prepare to Vote

**Friday, November 1:** Getting the Most Out of *Confidence and Connections*

**Friday, December 6:** Tutoring with Off2Class

If you miss a Skill Up, you can find recordings of past sessions in the Learning Community on America Learns. Use "skill ups" as your keyword search.



# Glossary

## pleasure

a person, thing or experience that you enjoy

## a blast

a good time

## highlights

the most interesting or **important parts** of something

## collage

a picture made by sticking a bunch of other pictures together

## tutees

students who have a tutor

## tricky

hard to deal with; causes problems

## fly swatters

something used to hit bugs

## awareness

understanding of a topic

## unique

unusually good or special

## detailing

explaining completely

## political party

a group that believes certain things and tries to serve in the government

## candidates

people who are trying to win an election

## issues

problems that are talked about a lot

## sort through

to look through things and try to understand them

## factual

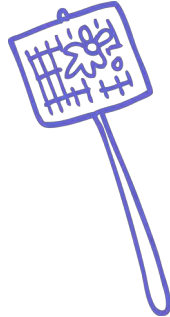
true; based on facts

## effective

working in the way that it was meant to

## cast votes

to vote



## Community Resource Flyer



### Looking for a Wellness Community?

Join us on WhatsApp!

This space is dedicated to nurturing health, sharing wellness tips, and supporting newcomer communities in the Bay Area. You can join various groups under our community umbrella, where we'll share events, share resources, and create a supportive network!

Scan to join our WhatsApp Community

