



Happy 2025 from PSC!

We are excited to start the year by introducing our new staff member, Zoe. Zoe has been a tutor with PSC for 2 years. In December, she joined PSC as a Library Literacy Assistant. Zoe will share more about herself in the next newsletter.

We have a new item in this newsletter called the “Learner Tip.” We hope that Learner Tips will help you with your learning. Turn to page 6 to read it, and please let your TLC know what you think!

We wish you a wonderful new year of learning.

In this Issue

Letter Writing Contest	2
Family Literacy Corner.....	2
Write for <i>In Our Words</i>	3
Goodbye, Christina.....	3
Learner Achievements.....	4
Learner Activity.....	5
Learner Tip.....	6
Tutor Announcements.....	7
Glossary.....	8

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

News for Learners & Tutors

Letter Writing **Contest!**

Have you read or listened to a book that **inspired** you? Are you willing to write a letter to the writer of that book? If so, then you should join the Writer-to-Writer **contest**. Learners from all over the state can enter the **contest**.

The letter doesn't have to be long. In fact, it should be less than **500 words**. It can also be told to your tutor, who will write what you say. The letter should tell the author why their book **inspired** you. The letter should have all the parts of a letter. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/PSCLetter> for more information.

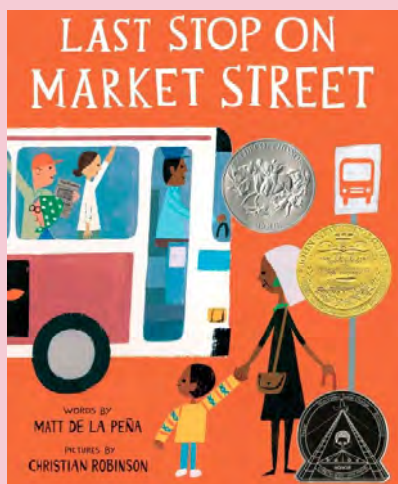
To enter the **contest**, you will need to fill out an **entry form**. Send an email to psc@library.cccounty.us if you need an **entry form**. Then, give the completed **entry form** and your finished letter to the Project Second Chance office before Friday, February 21.

Winning letters will be published in a **booklet**, but everyone who writes a letter will receive a **certificate of participation**.

Good luck!



Family Literacy Corner: Getting Around Our Community



PSC Families, join us for a fun community event at the Concord Library! Meet the library staff and enjoy storytime and a craft. Everyone of all ages is welcome!

When: Monday, February 24 from 6–7 p.m.

Where: Concord Library (2900 Salvio St, Concord, CA)

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

News for Learners & Tutors

Share Your Experiences! Write for *In Our Words*!

Project Second Chance learners bring a lot of **talents** and experiences to our program. We want to find out about them! A good way to do this is to write for *In Our Words*.

In Our Words is PSC's annual book of adult learner writings. Our learners have written about jobs, **hobbies**, favorite traditions, their families, even recipes and poems! Writings are due Tuesday, April 1.

To participate:

- ◆ Stories should be 400 words or less.
- ◆ Each learner can write up to 3 stories.
- ◆ Use your own words! Don't worry that it has to be perfect.
- ◆ Get tips from your Tutor Learner Coordinator on how to get started and how to make writing for *In Our Words* a part of your tutoring session.
- ◆ Think about adding a photo if it goes with your story!
- ◆ Fill out a release form: <https://tinyurl.com/IOWReleaseForm>.



Give your story to your tutor or 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 14, 2025 at the annual PSC celebration event.

Learner Travel Program is Back!

Learners: We know that it can be expensive to travel to tutoring. PSC has some Uber gift cards and **Clipper Cards** available for learners who need help. You can ask your tutor or PSC staff for help with the form.

Please fill out the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/PSctravelprogram>.

Thank you to PSC, Inc. for making this possible!

Goodbye, Christina

We are sad to say goodbye to Christina. During her time with us, she has shown hard work, kindness, and wonderful dedication.



Thank you, Christina, for all you did! We wish you all the best in the future.

News for Learners & Tutors

Books Completed

Laura Y. finished *Challenger 6* with tutor Fiorella R.

Hamid T. read *Finding Gobi* with tutor Mikko R.

Zachary W. — *Wilson Step 3* with Dee A.

Jim T. — *Wilson Step 5* with Laura H.

Rosa C. — *Confidence & Connections 2L* with Sarah C.

Linda L. — *Journey to Success Book 5* with Cecilia B.

Martha G. — *Confidence & Connections 2R* with Amara B.

YuJeong Y. — *Confidence & Connections 2L* and *3L* with Connie M.

Maria M. — *Confidence & Connections 3L* with Jared P.

Maria P. — *Challenger 6* with Susie T.

Myrna C.P. read *Bake Sale*, *Queen Serene*, and *The Cell Phone Lot* on her own.

Kyra M. — *Wilson Step 3* with Zalma G.



Learner Accomplishments

Annie Z. set up an email address and sent emails back and forth with her tutor, Clio H. Great job, Annie!

Tutor Gitte S. reports that **Aseyeh A.** understood most of what her doctor said in English. That's fantastic, Aseyeh!

Tutor Marian M. reports that **Elnura A.** passed her citizenship test. What an accomplishment, Elnura!

Carmen T. applied for a library card with the help of tutor Jeanie G., and was able to check out books. Great job Carmen and Jeanie!

Larisa V., congratulations for completing 16 assignments in Off2Class. Your hard work is **paying off!**

Tutor Deepa B. reported that **Masoumeh E.** passed her citizenship exam in October! Congratulations Masoumeh!

Tutor Judy A. reported that **Giza A.** passed her citizenship test in November! Congratulations Giza!

Tutor John O. reported that **Manny N.** passed his driver's license exam after studying together. Way to go, Manny!

Salvador R. got his driver's license with help from tutor Rachel M. Congratulations, Salvador!

Tutor Sara C. says, "**Rosa C.** got a new job after we were applying together for a bit!" Way to go, Rosa!

Activity for Learners

Learn to Edit Your Own Writing Activity

Everyone needs to check their own writing for **errors**, even professional writers! Read the **Self-Editing** Check List below. Then try to find and fix **errors** in the practice paragraph*. (Hint: There are at least 16 **errors**.) Answers are on page 6.

Self-Editing Check List

Punctuation

- I read my story aloud to see where to stop or pause for periods (.), question marks (?), exclamation marks (!), and commas(,).
- Quotation marks (“ ”) and apostrophes (') are included where needed.

Capital Letters

- I checked for capitals at the beginning of sentences.
- **Proper nouns** begin with capitals (Los Angeles, Toyota, I, San Francisco Giants).

Grammar

- My sentences are complete thoughts and contain a noun and a verb.
- I don't have any **run-on sentences**.
- My subject and verb match [example: They are (matches) | They is (does not match)] and are in the correct tense: past, present, or future.

Spelling

- I checked spelling and fixed the words that didn't look right.

Practice

This morning I were making toast for brekfast. Then I went to the lundry room put some cloths in the washer. I hear the smoke alarm. I think, "something is burning I put soap in the washer. When I got up to stairs, everybody are running outdoors. Two fire trucks and a oakland police car were outside my house. Smoke was coming out of my apartment? My kids standing outside. They were weering his pajamas. oh no my toast

*Adapted from englishforeveryone.org



Learner Tip: Get Help from SparkPoint!

Are you looking for help with your money, finding a job, or planning for the future? SparkPoint is a free program that can help you with these things and more! Here's how SparkPoint can **support** you:

- **Money Help:** One-on-one **coaching** to help save money, build **credit**, and file taxes.
- **Job Help:** Help search for a job and job skills training.
- **Food & Housing:** Get free food, help with rent, and apply for **benefits** like CalFresh.

SparkPoint Office Locations:

1. West: 1000-C Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801 (510-779-3200)
2. East: 3105 Willow Pass Road
Bay Point, CA 94565 (925-655-3700)
3. Central: Diablo Valley College
321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(g.mendoza172@dvc.edu)

Want to Learn More?

We will have an online presentation about SparkPoint in January! Look out for an email with the **date, time, and link** to join the presentation. This is a great chance to learn how SparkPoint can help you!

You can also visit their website for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/SparkPointProgram>

PSC Reading Club

PSC will be holding a reading club in 2025! This club is a great way to get more practice reading and meet other learners. Learners of all levels are welcome.

Join us the first three Tuesdays of every month from 12–1 p.m. on Zoom. We will read articles and talk about them together. There is no need to sign up, but you should come to the first meeting of the month. Just click on <https://tinyurl.com/ReadWithPSC> to attend.

Here are the meetings for January, February, and March:

January 7, 14 & 21

February 4, 11 & 18

March 4, 11 & 18



We look forward to seeing you there!

Writing Activity Answers

This morning, I was making toast for breakfast. Then I went to the laundry room to put some clothes in the washer. I heard the smoke alarm. I think, “Something is burning!” I put soap in the washer. When I got upstairs, everybody was running outdoors. Two fire trucks and an Oakland police car were outside my house. Smoke was coming out of my apartment! My kids were standing outside. They were wearing their pajamas. Oh no! My toast!

Upcoming Tutor Skill Ups

Join PSC for our upcoming Skill Ups. Skill Ups are held the first Friday of most months from 12–1 p.m. on Zoom. Chat with your fellow tutors while learning about tutoring resources and ideas from PSC staff.

To join any Skill Up, go to <https://tinyurl.com/PSCSkillUp>. (Note that this is a different link from our 2024 Skill Ups). No RSVP needed.

Friday, January 3 : Using Audiobooks isn't Cheating!

Friday, February 7 : Simple Writing Ideas for *In Our Words*

Friday, March 7 : Encouraging Your Learner to Write Summaries

Can't make it? You can find recordings of past sessions in the Learning Community on America Learns. Use "skill ups" as your keyword search.

Welcome PSC Tutors!

Anita Daniels
Arthur Lee
Barbara Jansse
Barbara Milanovich
Carol Oredsen
Cheryl Cooper
Collin Baker
Cooper Howard
Darcy Kremin
Darin Rodrigues
Deb Rocchild
Dominic Tuason
Edith Uko
Elizabeth Gard
Esther Nichol
Jaspreet Minhas
Jeanie Gee
Jennifer Weiss

JoAnn Hobbs
Kate Sperry
Kathleen Coletti
Ken Young
Kimberly Hooks
Kwok Wing Wong
Lauren Lior Jacober
Linda Comelo
Lindsay Masadas
Lisa Cahn
Mark Raaberg
Matthew Ware
Michael Kandel
Naomi Desalegne
Natalie Campbell
Neha Duggirala
Pamela Paraison
Patrick Andrei Romero

Rebecca Camp
Saima Shah
Sara McCune
Sindy Santamaria
Sheila Linehan
Susan Kaufman
Tuan Nguyen
Vera Go
Viji Chittam



Glossary

benefits

social services that can help you

booklet

small book

certificate of participation

a paper that shows you did something

Clipper Cards

credit cards you can refill with money to pay for rides on buses, BART, or ferries

coaching

getting help from another person to improve your skills



contest

a competition (like a game) where you try to do better than other people to win

credit

your ability to pay back money

entry form

a paper that you write your information on to join a contest

errors

mistakes

hobbies

things you like to do for fun in your free time

inspired

gave you ideas

paying off

showing good results

proper noun

the name of a person, place, or thing

run-on sentence

A sentence that is too long. It needs punctuation to change it into two or more sentences

self-editing

carefully reading your own writing to find mistakes

support

help

talents

things you are good at

