



Spring Greetings from PSC

With the weather getting warmer, we are planning a fun PSC Community Celebration in June. This event is for learners, tutors, and family. We will celebrate the hard work and learning of PSC pairs. We will enjoy ice cream, cake, games, and a photo booth. We will also share our latest *In Our Words* book of learner writing. (It's not too late to write for *In Our Words*. See page 3 for information).

PSC Community Celebration

Saturday, June 14, from 3-4:30 pm
Lafayette Library Community Hall
Look for your invitation in the mail in May!

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

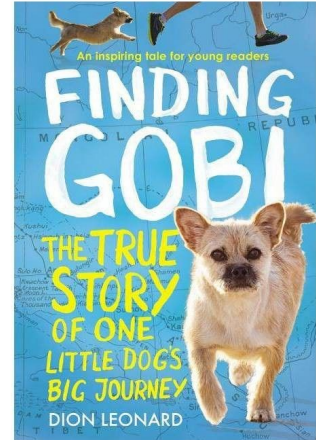
News for Learners & Tutors

Coming Soon: PSC's Book of the Year

Is one of your goals for 2025 to read a book? Here's your chance!

Thanks to PSC, Inc., we will be giving away a book to interested tutors and learners. The book is called *Finding Gobi* by Dion Leonard.

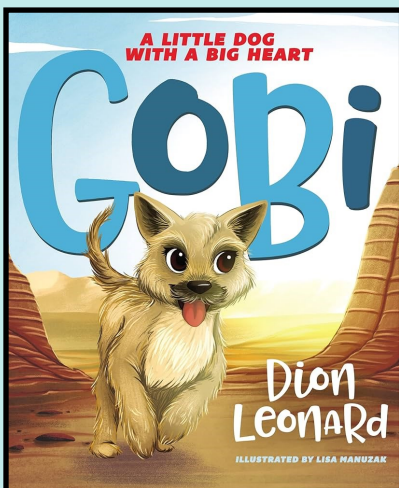
The book is about a small dog who joins a **runner** during a race across a **desert**. But then the dog goes missing, and the book is about the runner's search to find the dog again.



We will begin giving the book away on Monday, May 5. We will send an email inviting people to request a copy.

Then, in September, anyone who read the book is invited to join a book club meeting on Zoom. The meeting will be the evening of Tuesday, September 30. Save the date! We will have more information about the book club in a future newsletter.

Family Book Club: *Gobi: A Little Dog with a Big Heart*



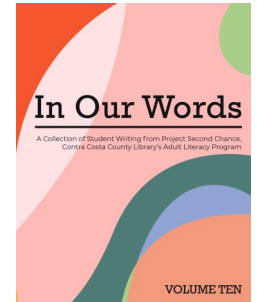
We are excited to announce our next family reading book: *Gobi: A Little Dog with a Big Heart*. The book is about a small dog named Gobi who shows **courage** and love while traveling with a man across the Gobi desert. As Gobi follows him, their journey becomes a beautiful story of friendship and kindness.

PSC families in the Families for Literacy (FFL) program will receive a copy of the book in June. We will mail it to you. There will also be a special event soon, so stay tuned for more details.

News for Learners & Tutors

Last Call for *In Our Words* Submissions

We're **extending** our deadline for *In Our Words* stories to **April 15**. So please finish up your wonderful stories and poems and send them to psc@library.cccounty.us. Please give handwritten stories to a staff member in your nearest PSC office. Remember, you will need to [sign a release form](#) for us to print your story. Maximum length 400 words and up to three stories per person.



Come Talk with Us! New Conversation Groups

Learners, do you want to practice English in a safe, fun place? Project Second Chance is offering some **meet-ups** to get our English language learners talking! Here they are:

Teach and Talk (Online) —Two-Part Group Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/PSCTeachTalk>

#1—Teach: the 3rd Thursday of most months (April 17, May 15, & June 12), 4 to 5 pm, on Zoom. Learn words and phrases in English to talk about family, health, making friends, and more.

#2—Talk: the 4th Thursday of most months (April 24, May 22, & June 26), 4 to 5 pm, on Zoom. Practice what you learned from "Teach," or just come by. Talk with other learners and tutors.

Talking Club (In Person): First Wednesday of each month (April 2, May 7, & June 4), 2 to 3 pm, at PSC Concord (2151 Salvio Street, Ste. 299). Meet with a tutor to have English conversations.

Meet Zoe

I have been tutoring with PSC for the past two years as a volunteer, and I am so excited to join the staff as a Library Literacy Assistant! The work we do together at PSC is so key to creating a **fair** society. I used to do **psychology** research and teaching, and before this, I worked with K-5 students in both literacy and math.

I am working in the main PSC Concord office as well as the Antioch Library. I hope to meet you at one of our **upcoming** events!



News for Learners & Tutors

Books Completed

Confidence & Connections

Hsiao Feng W. (1L)

Sandra M. (2R)

Dhondup W. (1R)

Challenger

Velia R. (4)

Journey to Success

Maria M. (4)

Luisa O. (3)

Three Little Words

Gita V.

Wilson

Byron D. (Step 1A)

Walid R. (Step 8)



Learner Accomplishments



Way to go, **Javi C.**! Recently, he completed a mandatory training in English and got **promoted** to server at the restaurant where he works.

Christiane B. is working on her goal of applying for jobs and wrote a great job application cover letter. Good luck on your job search, Christiane!

Misty G. baked and **decorated** cookies with absolutely no **assistance, fulfilling** her goal of reading a **recipe**. What a delicious achievement, Misty!

Congratulations to **Mohammad A.** on his new job!

Yurany S. completed Unit 31 in Off2Class and scored 100% on the unit assessment. Keep up the good work, Yurany!

Congratulations to new citizen **Zahid K.**, who passed the citizenship exam on March 6!

Learner Tip: Talking to Tutors

PSC's tutors are volunteers. So, PSC staff trains the tutors before we match them with you. During training, PSC staff talk to our tutors about being "learner-centered."

What does learner-centered mean? It means that the learner's needs and goals are the most important part of tutoring. The tutors learn to help you with your goals. Tutors often **worry** if they are being helpful. So, it's important that you tell your tutor about your **preferences**. Then your tutor can understand how to help you.

Tell your tutor if you don't understand! Here are some sentences you can use:

- I don't understand _____.
- Can you repeat that slower?
- Can you give me some examples?
- What is _____?

Tell your tutor if they are moving too fast or too slow through a book or activity. Tell them if you want to repeat something.

Tell your tutor if a textbook seems too hard or too easy, or just not interesting. Explain why, so they can find something better.

Tell your tutor if you really like a book or an activity. This lets them know what you like.

If you are not sure how to explain your ideas to your tutor, please call the PSC office and we will help you.

PSC Reading Club

The PSC Reading Club meets the first two Tuesdays of the month on Zoom. In the Reading Club, you will practice reading short articles. You will also get to talk with other learners about the reading and learn a few vocabulary words.

At the first meeting of the month, we will do a vocabulary review, read a short article together, and **chat** about the article. Then, before the second meeting, you will need to read an online article on your own. We will share directions for this at the first meeting.

The second meeting of the month will **focus on** talking about the article you read. This second meeting is a chance to talk about the main ideas in the article and what you thought about them.

To join, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ReadWithPSC>. It is important that you attend the first meeting of the month.

Here are the dates for the Reading Club this spring. Hope to see you there!

Tuesdays, April 1 and 8, from 12-1 pm

Tuesdays, May 6 and 13, from 12-1 pm

Tuesdays, June 3 and 10, from 12-1 pm



News and Activity for Learners

Learner Activity: **Technology** Vocabulary

Technology has a lot of new vocabulary. Can you match the picture with the word? (See the answers on page 8).

Word Bank

computer tower
(*hint: sits next to a desktop monitor*)

headphones

desktop monitor

keyboard

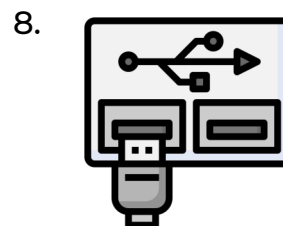
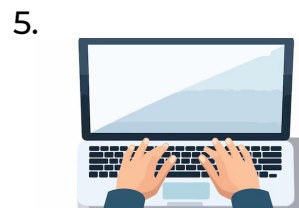
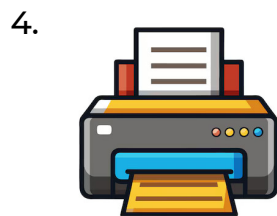
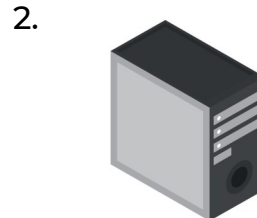
laptop

mouse

printer

thumb drive (or flash drive)

USB port



Technology Help in Antioch

Are you a Project Second Chance learner who needs help with email? Want help using Zoom on your phone? Interested in online reading programs between tutoring sessions?

Come by the Antioch Library (501 W. 18th St.) any Thursday from 2-3 pm to talk to library literacy assistant Zoe! She will help you learn basic digital literacy skills. (Digital literacy skills help you use the internet and technology devices.) No appointment needed. Bring your own devices if possible. Call the PSC office in Antioch at 925-754-8317 for questions.

News for Tutors

Lunch & Learn

Join PSC for a Lunch & Learn program with longtime adult educator Ali Tubio. Ali will be sharing an informative, hands-on workshop about “**Creating Engaging and Interactive Lessons.**” Ali will share fun, simple strategies relevant to both ESL and Wilson pairs to bring to your tutoring. Lunch will be provided thanks to PSC, Inc.

Friday, May 30, from 11:30 am-1 pm
PSC Concord (2151 Salvio St., Ste. 299)
RSVP by May 20: <https://tinyurl.com/May25LunchLearn>

Upcoming Tutor Skill Ups

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

To join, go to <https://tinyurl.com/PSCSkillUp>. No RSVP needed.

Friday, April 4 : [Review of PSC’s Programming for Tutors & Learners](#)

Friday, May 2: [Using Games to Help with Phonics & Sounds](#) (*Wilson-friendly!*)

Friday, June 6 : [Unlock the Power of an Online Dictionary](#) (*Wilson-friendly!*)

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.

PSC, Inc. Rebranding

Since 1986, the hard-working, all-volunteer group PSC, Inc. has been providing financial support and advocacy for PSC. This spring, PSC, Inc. will be rebranding itself as **Friends of Project Second Chance (FoPSC)** to more clearly reflect its role. Be on the lookout for an introduction from Friends of PSC soon!

Welcome, New Tutors!

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Leslie Allen | Janie Johnson |
| Diane Barde | Maria Kival |
| Noah Barrientos | Melissa Kolina-Chiprich |
| Michele Brown | Linda Lawhorn |
| Sally Bryden | Bill Leech |
| Jericho Cabanayan | Emily Liu |
| Mary Toni Cerrado | Janet Long |
| Leslie Clavin | Tamara Mays |
| Leanne Colvin | Courtney Mizutani |
| Christine Currie | Nicole Radford |
| MaryAnn DeCosta | Sharon Reading |
| Susanne Endisch | Abby Sherburne |
| Laura Feree | Pratisha Shreshta |
| Joycelyn Fields | Flor Soltero |
| Leisha Fry | Manisha Sonker |
| Gina Gabriel | Aly Sweeney |
| Michaela Gardner | Elise Thomas |
| Alexandra Harlan | Naomi Velasco |
| Greg Haught | Sharon Walters |
| Shakira Hobbs | Jenna Whiteaker |

Glossary

assistance

help from another person

chat

to talk together casually

courage

being brave when you have to do something difficult or scary

decorated

made to look pretty or fashionable



desert

a type of land that is very hot and dry with few plants

extending

making longer or later

fair

a way of treating people that seems good or right

focus on

look at carefully

fulfilling

completing or finishing

meet-ups

meetings with people to learn or do something fun

psychology

the study of the human mind & behavior

preference

something you like more than another thing

promoted

got a better job in a company

recipe

a written plan for cooking some food

runner

a person who exercises by running

technology

machines and tools that use science & computers

upcoming

happening soon

worry

to think about something a lot because you are unhappy about it

Answers to Learner Activity, page 6

1. mouse
2. computer tower
3. headphones
4. printer
5. keyboard
6. laptop
7. desktop monitor
8. USB port
9. thumb drive (or flash drive)