Letter from the Board President

Best wishes to all our supporters; we wouldn’t have the impact and successes within our community without you. The demand for our services has continued to grow and through our outreach efforts we have been able to keep up with the needs of our community.

We currently have 46 tutors teaching 53 students. Throughout the year our tutors have worked with 77 students! We currently have 10 new students waiting to be matched with a tutor. The number of students who tell us they have attained a personal goal this year is 60; 14 have either increased involvement with their children’s activities or involvement with the community. Ten report that they have entered employment, and 3 have achieved citizenship skills.

In the past 12 months we have trained 31 new tutors, and will be training a new group in late January 2011. We currently have 8 tutors either waiting for new students or waiting for their first match.

We owe much to our Board members’ talents and efforts and I’d like to take a moment to introduce them: New Board Members

Kathy Mollet joined our team as Treasurer in 2009. She has made an enormous impact on our thinking about how to use some very simple strategies to meet our financial needs in this down economy. She has introduced our Board to three "no cost" Scrip fundraising programs that have supplemented our income. She has also been successful with two new grant requests which have enabled us to make purchases, as an example, for our student and tutor library books (see page 2 for more information on these various programs).

Tod Buis is a tutor, Student Intake Evaluator and new Board Director. He brings much enthusiasm to our team and has been an outstanding contributor presenting our programs via TV, radio and videotaped media presentations. His passion for our program comes across strongly as does his desire to learn and grow in his new role while completing his degree in Sociology.

Susan Murai, another new Board member, brings her professional expertise to our organization. She is engaging our members in looking at a broader picture of how we may best serve our community now and in the future.

We also have benefited from the talents and efforts of other members of our PiELL community who support us with their in-kind services as tutor instructors, resource tutors, student evaluators, website consultants and meeting facilitators. We appreciate all that they do on our behalf.

In spite of the downturn, our income is slightly up compared to last year for the same 12 month period. Largely due to new grants from Save Mart Cares and West America Bank, as well as from our new SCRIP programs, and increased individual donations.

We are looking forward to the challenges of 2011, and wish you all a wonderful holiday season!
Note from Kathy Mollet, PiELL Treasurer

I know that everyone is only too aware of the difficult economic challenges right now. PiELL has been taking steps to help ensure that our program is not further affected due to lack of funds. As such we have been making more grant requests and have 3 wonderful Scrip programs to help deal with any fundraising shortfall. Best of all there is no cost to you for any of these programs. Your support of these programs would be very much appreciated!

Two Great Local Scrip Programs – SPD and Save Mart
PiELL is happy to be part of two local Scrip programs too! Both of these programs earn 3% on all of your spending (there are a few item exclusions). For SPD all you need is a paper coupon book that we can send to you upon your request. You simply give it to the cashier when you are checking out. For Save Mart we have a club card that we can send to you and you just swipe it when you are checking out. That’s all there is to it.

Great Lakes Scrip Program
The program is easy. You choose gift cards to purchase and make a check payable to PiELL for the face value of the cards. Your check is cashed by PiELL, and cards are ordered on your behalf. Your gift cards are either delivered to you or made available for pick-up (whatever is easiest for you). PiELL earns various commissions depending on the merchant. For any commission you earn for PiELL, you get a charitable tax deduction. It is that easy!

Holiday Shopping Made Easy
With Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s coming in rapid succession, we all could use some help getting our shopping done faster and easier. PiELL has a Scrip program that will enable you to do just that!

All of us know that gift cards make great gifts. With Scrip, you can find something for everyone on your list, help PiELL raise funds, not use a drop of gas, get a tax deduction for funds raised for PiELL, and all at no cost to you. Additionally during the holidays many merchants have special bonus percentages for a limited time.

Department stores such as Macy’s, JCPenney, Land’s End and Sears are Scrip participants, giving you peace of mind if a gift needs to be exchanged. The folks on your list will love something from Bath & Body Works, The Body Shop or Claire’s. You can’t go wrong with Best Buy or iTunes Scrip for your techies. And the guys on your list will love gift cards from Eddie Bauer, Foot Locker or Best Buy. For the teacher or hostess on your list, why not pick up some gift cards for Starbucks, Barnes and Noble or their favorite restaurant.

Planning a Trip?
There are several airlines and hotels that are Scrip vendors. Before making your arrangements, check out the complete list of retailers at: http://www.glscrip.com

Thinking about home improvements?
Try Lowe’s, Home Depot, Pier 1 Imports, Pottery Barn or many of the other home improvement retailers.

Non-Holiday Shopping
The top 10 most frequently purchased gift cards in our program are: Safeway, Home Depot, Amazon.com, Save Mart, CVS, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Arco, Starbucks, Staples, and Best Western.

For more information, please call Donna Cobb at 530-274-8428 or email Kathy Mollet at kvmollet1@me.com.

Also you can visit the PiELL web site at www.piell.org

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Congratulations and thank you to the 2010 graduates of our New Tutor Training!

Sue Clark
Nancy Creech
Andy De La Cruz
Cathy Fagan
Don Foster
Don Harkin

Nancy Jeffery
Rich Lailer
Allison Sweetser
Amy Umpleby
Mary Wolleson

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OUR GENEROUS DONORS (Oct. 2009-Sept. 2010)

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<th>FRIENDS $1-$49</th>
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<td>Paul and Kris Vasser</td>
<td>Roger and Jean Polf</td>
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<td>Jesus Villarreal</td>
<td>Eric Robinson</td>
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<td>Nancy Guerra-Wilbourne</td>
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Hoi and Tho are a Vietnamese married couple in their early 50s who moved to the United States in 2005 under the sponsorship of Hoi's sister, Diane. Hoi and Tho have lived with Diane in Grass Valley ever since, and have worked at Golden Empire Convalescent Hospital for almost as long. Hoi works in the kitchen and Tho works in housekeeping. After they had been here for almost a year, Diane sought ESL help from PiELL, which was then The Literacy Council of Nevada County. I was subsequently assigned to them in February of 2006, and the three of us have met nearly once a week since then.

At the beginning, Hoi and Tho could understand or speak very little English; however, they were able to read English somewhat better. At first we largely communicated with pen and paper. I would say something to them and then write it down, sounding out each word and breaking down the multi-syllabic words into individual sounds. When they said something to me, they would write it down first and then we would practice saying it. It probably took me the better part of a day to understand most of the words and sounds in their native language. Vietnamese, come from the back of the mouth and the throat, whereas sounds in western languages form at the front of the mouth. One thing that drove that home to me, and changed how I taught, was the first time Hoi and Tho tried to teach me just a few Vietnamese phrases. It was very difficult to say the least. I soon learned another thing that is difficult for them, long multi-syllabic words, since most of the words in their native language are single syllable words.

Because of his schedule at work, Hoi was able to attend a local English class, taught by Lisa Stine in Grass Valley, where he spent as much time on English structure as he did on vocabulary and pronunciation. Because of her schedule, Tho was not able to attend these classes, so Hoi would tutor her at home. After the second year, I spent most of my time with them working on hearing the sounds, speech comprehension and pronunciation. Over the years, we tried different things to help them "hear" English such as word games and short outings, but one of the things we did that they liked the most was watching movies. I would loan them a couple of movies which they watched, and then at the next meeting we would talk about them. We still do this from time to time.

During the last year our lessons have centered on preparing for the United States citizenship test. Both Hoi and Tho were studying the material very hard and we spent many of our meetings reviewing questions on United States history and government, still concentrating on speech comprehension.

Their goal from the beginning has been to become United States citizens and eventually sponsor their son and daughter to immigrate to the United States. Last month Hoi passed the test and became a United States citizen! Tho is not too far behind and should pass the test sometime next year.

Ellie is a young woman juggling family, including one-year old Joshua, work, and learning English. I have been her tutor for a year and a half. One of the Ellie's goals is to become a cook at Sierra View Manor where she works as a dishwasher. We have focused on "kitchen" words and general conversation that she can use with co-workers and residents. She's more confident and uses English more. She gets compliments on the way her English has improved.

Recently, an opportunity for a cook position came up. We prepared by using a book from the library called Cooking for a Crowd. We read it together, studying vocabulary, safety procedures in the kitchen, and measurements in recipes. We knew this was valuable information! Ellie felt confident enough to apply and was offered the job! Now, unfortunately, other factors complicated matters and Ellie wasn't able to accept the job, but now she knows that she can do it when the time is right. She's seen how her improved English skills lead to job opportunity.

We recently held our 3rd annual Tutor & Student Potluck. It was a huge success! We at PiELL would like to thank Becky and her husband Al for being great hosts! Although it rained a bit, we had a great turn out! Next year, in order to accommodate everyone, we plan on holding the event at a local park. Hopefully more of our students will be able to attend. It's a great opportunity for our students to meet everyone involved in PiELL as well as other students who are working on their English through our program. The group picture (right) was taken during the fun.
Partners in English Language Learning
578 Sutton Way PMB 198
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Mailing Address:
Partners in English Language Learning
578 Sutton Way, PMB 198
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Physical Address:
Lyman Gilmore School
10837 Rough & Ready Hwy
Room B4, Grass Valley

Phone/Fax: (530) 274-8428
Email: admin@piell.org

www.piell.org

Help PiELL go Paperless!
In our on-going effort to utilize funds more effectively, please help us, by taking a moment to update your contact information using the enclosed donation envelope. Let us know how we can better serve you, and if we can save paper by including you in future e-mail newsletters and other mailings. Thank you!

Thank You!

to the following businesses where PiELL students and tutors meet in a comfortable and welcoming environment:

Briar Patch
Brunswick Village
Caroline’s Coffee, E. Main St.
Flour Garden, Neal St.
Grass Valley Library
Nevada County Country Club
Nevada City Library
Penn Valley Community Church
Safeway, Brunswick Basin

Mailing Address:
Partners in English Language Learning
578 Sutton Way, PMB 198
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Physical Address:
Lyman Gilmore School
10837 Rough & Ready Hwy
Room B4, Grass Valley

Phone/Fax: (530) 274-8428
Email: admin@piell.org

www.piell.org

Office Hours
Mon.: 1:00—5:00
Wed.: 2:00—6:00
Fri.: 9:00—1:00

Calendar

Tutor Holiday Get Together:
December 11th 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Watch for your invitation!

Annual Meeting:
January 22nd – 10:00am-noon
Watch for your invitation!

Winter 2011 Training schedule:*
Saturday, January 29th 8:30am-4:30pm
Saturday, February 5th 8:30am-4:30pm
*Must attend both days.

Spring 2011 Training schedule:*
Saturday, May 14th 8:30am-4:30pm
Saturday, May 21st 8:30am-4:30pm
*Must attend both days.

Tutor Coffee:
February 17th – 1:30pm-3:30pm

*Must attend both days.

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