



Partners in English Language Learning

Our Mission Statement

Spring/Summer 2010

We help English language learners become thriving members of our community by offering one-on-one English language tutoring, and building bridges that foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, and friendship.

Spring/Summer 2010

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English language gives each individual the voice to be heard in our community.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Happy glorious springtime to all of you.....our dedicated PiELL tutors, our generous donors, and to all of you who support us in one way or another. Our heartfelt thank you.

We have once again been very busy with student and tutor outreach activities. Since November 2009, **17** new students have been referred to us. Seven have been matched with tutors, and **10** students are waiting for tutors or for intake interviews to be conducted. Nine people completed our New Tutor Training in January, and we will have two more training sessions this year, one in May and another in September.

We currently have 54 tutors matched with 60 students. Supporting these efforts, we have one 12-hour/week Program Coordinator and 9 active Student Intake Interviewers (Thank you Susan Zlimen, Avila Lowrance, Nancy Guenther, Tod Buis, Curtis Bok, and Sharon Bailey-Bok, Kathryn Eldredge, Ofilio Vigil and Deborah Ireland). Also, we now have 8 Resource Tutors supporting the tutors (Thank you Kris Vasser, Sally Smith, Ellen Hagan, Shari Coats, Marlee Chamberlin, Louise Beesley, and Myra Arstein.....and I make 8). And last, but by no means least, the 4 Trainers are the backbone of the New Tutor Training classes (Thank you Susan Reynolds, Bev Stout, and Judy McCarrick, and I'm the 4th one). Kathy Mollet has joined the Board as Treasurer and Nancy Guenther has joined as a Director.

Each student's progress varies considerably, depending on their job status, how many children they have, how involved they are with their children's homework and after-school activities, the number of extended family members who are living in their home, etc. We are able to measure our students' progress through monthly reports from the tutors and through discussions the Resource Tutors have with them. Part of the student progress is seen in how they begin to interact socially outside of their "comfort zone" ...the cultural side of the process.

Over the past 6 months, several tutors had this to say about their students:

From Ellen: "It delights and amazes me to see the confidence building for my student, Ellie. Each week she speaks with less hesitancy and a tone of voice that is stronger."

From Kris: "Every week the hour I spend with Felipa flies by. We listen, we talk, we laugh, we read and reread and reread. Best of all, progress is made. It's a gradual process with tremendous rewards for us both."

From Nancy: "After our lesson a couple of weeks ago, my student, Martha, said, "I'm learning. I love this class!"

Many of you who live locally know of Susan Clarabut, Assistant Superintendent, Grass Valley School District. Susan has been very supportive of our program. Most of our students live in the Grass Valley school district, and approximately 75% of our students have children. She had this to say about the services PiELL offers.

"PiELL tutors help our families in so many ways. The one to one relationship developed between tutors and their students is invaluable in enabling parents to help their children with daily homework. Through PiELL, parents from other cultures are not only being taught English, they are also learning about our school system, including the importance of such activities as Science Camp, field trips, Student Council and after-school sports and other activities. As a school system, we understand how critical parent involvement is to student success. When students know that there is a close connection between home and school, they are more successful at school. PiELL tutors help us to create and maintain that close connection."

And.....we do all this on a budget of approximately \$20,000 per year. As always, if you are able to donate at the time, you know your money will be well-spent. To our donors...thank you so very much for your continued support. And to our tutors...thank you for your continuing, loving gift of yourselves that you so generously give to our students.

Judi Kreinick, PiELL Board President



Front row: Judi Kreinick; second row: Louise Beesley, Bev Stout, Myra Arstein; back row: Nancy Guenther, Marianne Cartan, Joanne Weatherly, Donna Cobb, Kathy Mollet.



SHARI & MINI

When I was first matched with Mini and we had set a time and place for our first lesson, she had to ask her husband to call and change the date. When the rescheduled date approached, Mini herself called to say she couldn't make it that day either. I was glad she called herself, but she was very nervous and apologetic, and used very simple construction. When she said "I can't meet you," I had to ask, "You CAN or you canNOT?" because she wasn't enunciating the final /t/ sound. After six months of intermittent lessons (she has to cancel now and then because of her kids' schedules or

illnesses) she now calls me with much more confidence and much better English—and she always stresses the /t/ sound at the end of "can't" very clearly!. She has also told me with pride that when she takes her kids to the pediatrician, she is able to do without translation help. She was recently complimented by the nurse, who told her "You are speaking much better English now." Mini was very pleased to tell me this, and I consider it a big success, along with her increased confidence when talking to me on the telephone.



Shari studying with her student Mini

RAY & SAMUEL

Recently Samuel was telling me about some new customers that he has and was explaining some of the things that he was doing. I asked him if there was anything that he was having trouble

understanding and he proudly told me "Nothing and they only speak English" He is gaining more and more confidence by the day and is thoroughly enjoying using his new language skills.



Ray with his student Samuel

Partners in English Language Learning Student Demographics

<u>Asia</u>	<u>Latin America</u>	<u>Other</u>
Vietnam	Mexico	Poland
China	Peru	Russia
Thailand	Columbia	Slovakia
Mongolia	Argentina	
Iran		

KRIS & FELIPA

Success comes in many forms! Felipa and I arrived at Caroline's Coffee on E. Main one sunny spring day only to find major construction happening with no access to our usual inside table. Being resilient, we asked the construction guys if we could use the outdoor table. Our lesson proceeded as did the

interior work. The positive result was three local people were informed about our tutoring project and gave us kudos for our work plus Felipa continued to practice her phonics lesson (especially ch, sh, wh). She continues her work and isn't fazed by change. That is dedication!

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

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Kathryn Eldredge | Suzanne Ropiquet |
| Cornelia Firth | Mike Vasser |
| Deborah Ireland | Ofilio Vigil |
| Dorothy Hitchcock | Robert Zeuner |
| Marsha Ostrom | |

BECKY SCHULTZ SHARES HER TIME WITH HER PIELL STUDENTS...AND MUCH MORE...

On February 16th, Becky Schultz and her 2 students, Pachis and Veronica, along with their families celebrated Valentines Day with a special evening. Prior to this event the students had studied Valentines day customs and vocabulary such as terms of endearment (honey, sweetheart, sugar, etc). They also studied the menu and discussed the dishes being served. They agreed that only English would be spoken that evening.

The group met at Becky's house for a special valentines dinner that included red & white heart shaped pasta and chocolates. After dinner they teamed up to play Sequence, a game that does not require English skills to enjoy. A good time was had by all !

Becky has been meeting with her 2 students for the past 2 years, and in addition to spending time twice a week with them, Becky also has a full time job. For the past 3 years she has been The Dentist with the Healthy Smiles program. She and her dental assistant, Elyssa, visit pre-school through 8th grade schools in Nevada County where 30%+ of the children are on the free lunch program. They provide preventive and educational services to about 50 kids per

day. Talk about exhausting!! Since January 2010, they have had a fully-equipped mobile dental clinic which will allow them to provide full dental care when necessary.

Every Monday, Becky also volunteers as an AARP Tax Aide for low and mid-income people. When asked why she does this, she said she enjoys using a different part of the brain than she uses in the rest of her life. Becky has been a dentist for 30 years, and in 1993, she decided to get her MBA and did some management consulting for a short time. She and her husband also hosted foreign exchange students for 20 years, while their daughter was in school. They thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful cultural experience and finally stopped (she says laughingly) because the parents of the students were "younger than we were."

Why does Becky tutor...."I like working 1-on-1, it's something I'm good at, and I like helping integrate people into our culture because it benefits the students and the community. They aren't part of the hidden population anymore."

They say, when you need something done, ask a busy person...That would be Becky.



Becky Schultz, center, with her 2 students Pachis & Veronica

2009 DONORS

FRIENDS \$1-\$49

Michael & Gail Atlas
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Tutor Luncheon Donations

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PLATINUM-\$1000-\$1999

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DONATIONS IN KIND

David Arstein
Grass Valley School District
Diane Hilde, Hilde Design
Rob Martens
Trevor Michael, Margaritas Restaurant
Eric Nielsen
RSVP
Philip Smith

Thank you!

In Memoriam

Thank you very much for donations made in memory of John Jessup

Recently we lost a dear friend, board member and past President, John Jessup, who was not only a friend to PiELL, but of many in the community. His smile and compassionate personality will be sorely missed. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to PiELL in John's memory. We wish his lovely wife Pam all the best.



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

Board of Directors

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www.piell.org

Calendar

Tutor Coffee: April 13th 1:30-3:30

Caroline's Coffee

*Spring Training schedule:

Saturday, May 1st 8:30am-4:30pm

Saturday, May 8th 8:30am-4:30pm

***Must attend both days.**

Annual Tutor Luncheon:

Saturday, June 5th at Margaritas Restaurant

Fall New Tutor Training:

September: dates to be determined.

Thank You!

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

BriarPatch Co-op
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

Wish list:

Bilingual children's books Portable
CD players, English
courses on CD.

Please call Donna at 274-8428

We appreciate all donations.

Mailing Address:

Partners in English
Language Learning
578 Sutton Way, #198
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Physical Address:

Lyman Gilmore School
10837 Rough & Ready Hwy
Room B4 Grass Valley

***OFFICE HOURS:**

Mondays: 1:00—5:00

Wednesdays: 2:00—6:00

Fridays: 9:00—1:00

*New hours

**The in-kind printing service for
this newsletter was provided by
Eric Nielsen**

Thank you!!