

Spring/Summer
2016

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



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.

Letter from the PiELL Co-Presidents

Dear PiELL Volunteers and Supporters,

We have so much to be grateful for once again. Last year we celebrated PiELL's 30 year anniversary, which was a huge milestone for us.

And starting off 2016 we have more wonderful news. As most of you know, we have been the Co-Presidents of PiELL for a number of years and have been searching for the right person to take the reins for some time now. We are so very pleased to announce that Christie Gillison has become PiELL's new President effective April, 2016.

Christie has been a tutor for a year, brings a wealth of corporate management experience with her, and has a real and committed passion to the organization and the work we do. In addition, the following 6 people have become new board members: Acacia Daniels, a treasurer for a local company, is assuming our Treasurer's position, Jon Fox, who comes with a wealth of experience as a professional grant-writer, Norema Strongin, who is replacing Nancy Guenther as Secretary, plus Alan Archer, Sherry Davey, and Caitlin Jones, all of whom will be filling several openings on a variety of committees that are critical to the success of PiELL.

We are losing two of our Board members; namely, Becca Schultz, who has headed up our community outreach program, and Bill DeCamp, who has been our Treasurer extraordinaire for the past two years. Louise Beesley, Nancy Guenther, and the two of us will continue on the Board.

We now have an 11-person Board of Directors, with new blood, new ideas, and a fresh look at how we are running the business and how best to serve our students and the team of dedicated tutors who help them achieve their life goals. Our extraordinary team of volunteers has dedicated over 4,600 hours during the past year. Some of the many roles our volunteers participate in are Tutors, Resource Tutors, Student Intake Interviewers, New Tutor Training Instructors, Librarian, Student/Tutor Outreach Coordinator/Presenters.

We know that the services that we provide to our students not only help them, but they also have a positive and everlasting impact on their children's lives as well.

To all of our volunteers and to our donors and supporters, we are forever grateful for your passion, and for the dedication and support you have shown to PiELL and to us personally over the years.

Bev Stout

Judi Kreinick

Judi Kreinick & Bev Stout
Co-Presidents, PiELL



Welcome to our new Tutors!

We recently held another successful New Tutor Training, and we are very pleased to welcome our new Tutors! Congratulations to Jeff Albrecht, Jerry Thomas, Dyane Albrecht, Tammy Youngman, Kathleen Kelly, David Unterman, Jim Peters, and Suzie Trant (pictured from left to right). They completed the two-day training in March and are excited to begin the program, and are now in the process of being matched with their new students. We will be offering our next two-day New Tutor Training on September 10 & 17. If you are interested in becoming a tutor or know someone who might be, please contact us at 265-2116 or at admin@piell.org for information. A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers. We could not do this without you.





Why Our Students Request Help

Helping my Student with Life Lessons

By Jan Berger, Tutor

My student has a very rudimentary knowledge of English and I am the only person she speaks English with on a regular basis. Spanish is spoken in her home and work environments. When she struggles to communicate I will sometimes ask her to find the Spanish word in our bilingual dictionary and then we talk about the English equivalent.

I noticed she had trouble reading the dictionary and eventually asked her about it. Sometimes she would use a pair of glasses but they did not appear to help. She had difficulty conveying what the issue was. Eventually I bought a dictionary with somewhat larger print but it did not solve the problem. Several months ago she had the opportunity to visit a free clinic. She seemed reluctant at first because of her work schedule and I made a few suggestions about how that could be resolved so she could go to the clinic. Although she visited the clinic and came back with a pair of glasses she had trouble describing her eye problem. At some point during this time she also

seemed to have some eye inflammation. She also started getting headaches. Whenever I encouraged her to seek further medical advice she said she couldn't afford the cost of her deductible.

Last month I had the PiELL president who speaks some Spanish join us with my student's permission. We were able to obtain some additional information about her eye condition and her efforts to seek treatment. It appeared we needed further clarification on her insurance, possibly go to an appointment with her, and find a facility willing to work out a payment plan she could afford. My student wanted me to make a few calls on her behalf. When I was unable to understand the problem from the phone calls or reviewing the documents the clinic gave her, I visited the optometrist who wrote them. He recommended a local ophthalmologist as well as a specialist for her problem. I then called the ophthalmologist to see if they could see her with the insurance she has. They agreed and also said they had a translator on staff.

My Student and Health Care

Shari Coats, Tutor, Resource Tutor

I have helped Mini (pictured with Shari at right) with health related issues, mostly by answering her questions as they come up, such as what a doctor or nurse meant by some specific instruction or term. I believe a lot of the medical people she deals with also speak a fair amount of Spanish, so she hasn't asked for much help. We have, however, constructed made-up dialogues regarding making appointments over the phone and also about explaining symptoms to a health care person. At one point we had come across some body part terms she was surprisingly unfamiliar with,

which led me to creating a long list of body parts and internal organs to study with her over a period of weeks. This happened to be in October and when I saw a three-dimensional plastic skeleton decoration in CVS during that time, I bought it to use as a visual aid. It proved a big success and I let Mini keep it for her kids for Halloween. I have since bought another one so I'll have it for future lessons.



OUR GENEROUS DONORS ~ April 1, 2015—March 31, 2016

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What's Happening at PiELL...



Group photo taken during the eScrip presentation at Grass Valley SPD Market. Photo by Laura Mahaffy courtesy of The Union.

eScrip and SPD Markets

Recently eScrip held a presentation at the Grass Valley SPD to celebrate their participation in the eScrip program. A large group of people representing schools and nonprofits that benefit from the eScrip program showed up to show their appreciation.

A huge "THANKS!!" to SPD Markets for donating over \$830,000 to Nevada County over the last 5 years through the e-Scrip program.

Also, thank you to those shoppers who chose PiELL to receive a percentage of their purchases. PiELL receives around \$600 per year from the program. To donate to PiELL while you shop at SPD Markets, visit escrip.com and choose Partners in English Language Learning.

PiELL and United Way of Nevada County Partnership

On April 21, Judi Kreinick, Bev Stout, Bill De Camp, and Christie Gillison met with a United Way Citizens Review Team to share information about PiELL's work in the community. This team makes recommendations to the United Way Board on PiELL's qualifications for grant funding. Bill recently submitted PiELL's grant request to United Way for consideration and this meeting was part of the review process. PiELL has been a United Way partner since 2003 and hopes to receive grant monies again this year. The area of focus for this grant is access to health care. The monthly reports of hours spent tutoring and the narrative comments are critical tools in sharing our story. Thank you for your diligence and dedication.

My Student, Ketut

By Norema Strongin, Tutor and PiELL Board Member

My student Ketut has great news to share. Ketut is from Bali and she has been studying with me for over a year. Her career goal was to work in the culinary field. Last April she enrolled in a culinary course at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Sacramento which will qualify her for a Certificate in Culinary Arts. This has been a big challenge for Ketut. In addition to lectures and hands-on culinary training, the class required her to complete numerous essays and oral presentations on culinary subjects. She worked diligently with her PiELL tutor to attain the English skills necessary to complete this work.

In December, Ketut completed her training at Le Cordon Bleu with excellent grades in all subjects. She is now employed at a local restaurant where she will complete the externship requirements for the Certificate in Culinary Arts. Ketut is on her way to realizing her dream of some day owning her own restaurant and catering business. CONGRATULATIONS KETUT!



Norema and Ketut studying.

My Student's Accomplishments

By Claudette Paige, Tutor

My student, who came here from Columbia, began her ESL classes at Sierra College in Rocklin last January. She is amazed at the wide range of English proficiency represented in class. She expressed compassion for those students who have no understanding at all. She is taking 3 classes covering listening and speaking, grammar, and writing.

There is a fair amount of homework. My role has been to help her understand some of the exercises and assist with her homework, without doing it. My preparation is nil since we are using her books and covering her homework. She is determined to develop her English proficiency.

For all other PiELL Tutors who may be interested, these are the books used in the Sierra College ESL program: 1. World Link - "Developing English Fluency" - Susan Stempleski/James Morgan/Nancy Douglas, Publisher: National Geographic Learning; 2. "Focus on Grammar 1", 3rd edition - Irene E. Schoenberg & Jay Maurer, Publisher: Pearson - Always Learning, 2 books; 3. "Trio Writing 1" Intersection of Vocabulary, Grammar & Writing, - Alice Savage & Colin Ward, Publisher: Oxford.

My Student's Travels

By Alan Weisberg, Tutor

During her travels, Laia and I continued to use FaceTime for tutoring sessions, focusing on her writing skills and also specifically on grammar: prepositions: at, to, in, on. She was in Spain, where she is from, for nearly all of March. This was a challenging time with her continuing to move from one family member's house to another in Spain, and often we competed with such distractions as kitchen noise, her elderly grandfather's unconscious singing of religious songs, and a plumber working in the kitchen. Still, we kept things going right till practically the last day before she returned to California, and I saw her once upon her return in early April.

For the next month, she will be taking a month-long, intensive micro-biotic cooking workshop in Massachusetts! It's not clear how much if any contact we will have during that time, though we may continue the practice of her writing through email about her experience and my correcting her writing and sending to her. But direct internet contact may not work. In any case, she will return in early May.



Thank you to the following businesses where PiELL students and tutors meet in a comfortable and welcoming environment!

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Briarpatch Co-op | Safeway, Brunswick Basin |
| Caroline's Coffee | Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters |
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Contact us at admin@piell.org or 265-2116.



PiELL Events

Northridge Fundraiser ~ Monday, Aug. 1st - 5 -9pm

Enjoy a delicious dinner and a percentage will go to Partners in English Language Learning! Nevada City Northridge ~ 773 Nevada St, Nevada City Call 478-0470 for information and to make reservations

Fall 2016 New Tutor Training Schedule

Sept. 10th ~ Sessions 1 & 2 8:30am-4:30pm

Sept. 17th ~ Sessions 3 & 4 8:30am-4:30pm

**Must attend both days. Call us at 265-2116 or email admin@piell.org for more information. Check our website "Event" page for upcoming events!*



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price to Partners in English Language Learning. When first visiting smile.amazon.com, select Partners in English Language Learning from the list of eligible organizations, then just shop like you usually would on Amazon. It's that simple!

Partners in English Language Learning

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Mailing Address:
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www.piell.org

Office Hours

Mon: 1:30—4:30
Wed: 1:30—4:30
Fri: 9:00— 1:00



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