



April 2024 Newsletter

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Staff accolades

Growth Mindset: Humble Pie



For the first time ever, WCM coached at Glacier High School in Kalispell! Coaches helped 10th grade students with their persuasive research papers.

Coaching Update

We are excited to be coaching at Hellgate High School (WCM's original location back in 1995) for the first time in several years! And we're even more excited that those Hellgate coaching sessions are for an English as a Second Language class--a first for WCM!

Below are some of the last chances to sign up for coaching during the current school year. Trained coaches can sign up through the linked dates below:

April

Flathead

Muldown Elementary in Whitefish

Wax museum project (continues into May)

- [Friday, April 12](#), 2024, adulthood paragraph
 - 8:45- 9:45am; 8 coaches needed
- [Friday, April 19](#), 2024, accomplishments paragraph
 - 8:45- 9:45am; 4 coaches needed
- [Friday, April 26](#), 2024, impact on society paragraph
 - 8:45- 9:45am; 8 coaches needed

Kalispell Middle School

6th grade, 5 paragraph informational essay

- [Thursday, April 18](#)
 - 8:00 - 8:55am, 9 coaches needed
 - 9:00 - 9:50am, 8 coaches needed
 - 9:55 - 10:45am, 8 coaches needed
 - 1:15 - 2:05pm, 7 coaches needed

Whitefish Middle School

7th grade, 5 paragraph research on history topic

- [Tuesday, April 23](#)
 - 8:53-9:40am, 9 coaches needed
 - 10:31-11:20am, 10 coaches needed
 - 1:52 - 2:39pm, 2 coaches needed
 - 2:43 - 3:30pm, 4 coaches needed

Columbia Falls High School

12th grade, synthesis essay (2nd draft in May--Please sign up for both weeks if you can!)

- [Wednesday, April 24, \(1st draft\)](#)
 - 8:15 - 8:59am, 6 coaches needed
 - 10:40am - 11:21pm, 9 coaches needed

Missoula

Big Sky High School

12th grade, Massey: assignment details available soon

- [Wednesday, April 17](#), single draft
 - 8:55-10:25am, 8 coaches needed
 - 10:30am-12pm, 9 coaches needed
 - 12:50-2:20pm, 8 coaches needed
- [Thursday, April 18](#), single draft
 - 12:50-2:20, 8 coaches needed

10th grade, Massey: assignment details available soon

- [Wednesday, April 17](#), single draft
 - 12:50-2:20pm, 8 coaches needed
 - 2:25-3:55pm, 5 coaches needed

Ravalli

Hamilton High School

11th grade, Carmody, [A River Runs Through It](#) tribute

- [Thursday, April 25](#), single draft
 - 2-3:30pm, 6 coaches needed
- [Friday, April 26](#), single draft
 - 10:10-11:40am, 7 coaches needed

May

Flathead

Muldown Elementary in Whitefish

Wax museum project

- [Friday, May 3](#), introduction
 - 8:45- 9:45am, 9 coaches needed
- [Friday, May 10](#), bibliography, timeline, cover page
 - 8:45- 9:45am, 9 coaches needed

Columbia Falls High School

12th grade, synthesis essay (2nd draft--Please sign up for 1st draft in April if you can!)

- [Wednesday, May 15](#), (2nd draft)
 - 8:15 - 8:59am, 6 coaches needed
 - 10:40 - 11:21am, 9 coaches needed

Missoula

Sentinel High School

9th grade, informative essays, Britt

- [Wednesday, May 1](#), second draft (first draft full)
 - 10:30am-12:00pm, 2 coaches needed
- [Thursday, May 2](#), second draft (first draft full)
 - 2:25-3:55pm, 1 coach needed

9th grade, research essays, Schick

- [Wednesday, May 15](#), first draft (Please sign up for both drafts, if possible!)
 - 10:30am-12:00pm, 5 coaches needed
 - 2:25-3:55pm, 6 coaches needed
- [Wednesday, May 22](#), second draft
 - 10:30am-12:00pm, 4 coaches needed
 - 2:25-3:55pm, 6 coaches needed
- [Thursday, May 16](#), first draft (Please sign up for both drafts, if possible!)
 - 2:25-3:55pm, 4 coaches needed
- [Thursday, May 23](#), second draft
 - 2:25-3:55pm, 4 coaches needed

Hellgate High School

Advanced English as Second Language, Peters: assignment details available soon

- [Thursday, May 16](#), first draft
 - 12:50-2:20pm, 4 coaches needed
- [Thursday, May 23](#), second draft
 - 12:50-2:20pm, 4 coaches needed

Questions regarding sessions can be directed to Flathead Coordinator (jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org) or Missoula/Ravalli Coordinator (kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org).

[CHECK OUT COACHING CALENDAR](#)



Missoula & Bitterroot Gives takes place on May 2 & 3!

Get ready to give on May 2nd and 3rd! WCM will be participating in the annual [Missoula & Bitterroot Gives](#) fundraising event.

Our goal is to raise enough funds to completely remove school contribution costs beginning in fall 2024! Last year, we successfully set out to reduce school fees by half. Due to current public school funding crises, our new goal is to eliminate school fees entirely. However, we can only achieve this with your support!

We'll share more details in our May newsletter, but please save the dates and spread the word about WCM's good work so folks are ready to [give on May 2 & 3](#). Help us put the #coolbackinschool by making literacy support accessible for all



End of Year Picnics: Save the Dates!

WCM will be hosting two evening appreciation picnics for coaches, donors, and educators next month:

- **Missoula/Ravalli: Wednesday, May 15**
- **Flathead: Thursday, May 16**

More details to come in our May newsletter and via email. For now, please save the dates!



PRESENTS

WRITING MATTERS



WITH

NEIL MASSEY

WCM BOARD MEMBER
HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

KAT JACKSON

WCM COORDINATOR

New Writing Matters podcast episode

Writing Matters [episode 2, part 2](#) is ready for your listening pleasure! Enjoy the expertise of University of Montana Native American Studies Professor Emeritus, Dr. Kate Shanley, as she discusses the power of seasonal storytelling.

You can also catch up on [episode 2, part 1](#) and [episode 1](#). Help WCM reach 1,000 listens so that we qualify for sponsorship--another great way to fund coaching sessions--on Spotify.



Volunteer meet-up with Kathy Dunnehoff

Join us virtually this Thursday, April 11, from 5:30-6:30pm to learn from Flathead Valley Community College faculty member, Kathy Dunnehoff. Her workshop, [Giving Criticism in a Supportive Manner](#), will help coaches or anyone looking to support students and writers.

[Join the Meet-Up here.](#)

Fresh ears for young writers

Coach Margaret Davis is a columnist for the *Daily Interlake*. In a [wonderful reflection](#), she discusses her journey of becoming a volunteer writing coach this year.

Thank you for sharing your experience with the public, Coach Margaret!

If you haven't already done so, consider making the journey into becoming a volunteer writing coach yourself! Questions regarding sessions can be directed to Flathead Coordinator (jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org) or Missoula/Ravalli Coordinator (kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org).

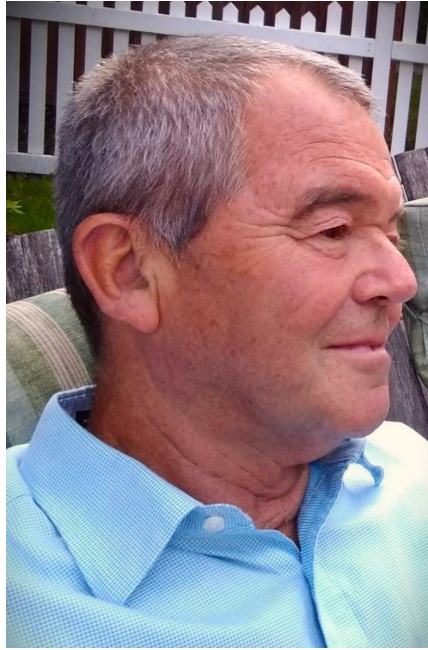
Staff accolades!

Hear, hear for our amazing WCM staff!

Flathead Coordinator Jeanne Wdowin (below, left) will be a member of the review team for the Montana English Language Arts and Literacy Content Standards Revision Task Force. This Office of Public Instruction service opportunity is a wonderful way to make a positive impact on Montana students. Thank you, Jeanne, for serving Montana students in a variety of important ways!

Missoula & Ravalli Coordinator Kat Jackson (below, right) has been accepted into the prestigious *Orion Magazine* Environmental Writers' Workshop in Rochester, NY which will take place this upcoming summer! *Orion* is a literary magazine committed to featuring art that focuses on environmentalism. Kat is excited to deepen her environmental fiction craft during this intensive learning experience.





Growth Mindset: A Coaches' Blog

Coach Wolf joined WCM's volunteer ranks this year. His reflection on correcting misperceptions is exactly the kind of growth mindset we embrace at WCM.

Humble Pie

We all carry our bundle of prejudices, (mis)judgements, and beliefs. Some of them are visible to the self-reflective individual; others remain more hidden awaiting their glaring exposure to actual experience. Case in point, my recent travels to Ravalli County high schools as a newly baptized writing coach for WCM.

I signed on with WCM just a couple of months ago and – with trepidation – had walked into Big Sky High in Missoula for my first assignment. A couple of hours later and much relieved I thought yes, I can do this and possibly provide some value to students. Next up: Hamilton and Corvallis in Ravalli County – rural Montana, right? Much as I hate to admit, my initial reaction was one of mostly curiosity mixed with a hint of condescension. Could Ravalli students' performance equal Missoula's, university town, hotspot for creative writers, and self-appointed liberal guardian of the state? Boy, was I in for a surprise and a lesson in humility.

First, the teachers I met in **all** locations are equally committed, sincere, fun, as well as very patient. The concept of sainthood comes to mind when observing members of that profession. Secondly, the students I met with in Hamilton and Corvallis just blew me away. Three short examples: student A handed me his paper and admitted he had finished it

in 20 minutes, just before our session. When asked why, he stated that his job of 30-40, sometimes 50 hours a week helping an elderly rancher run and keep his property allowed for limited time. I asked him when he slept or attended classes and he said, "whenever I can fit it in." His paper was excellent. Student B read me a brilliant paper of the latest composition of the Supreme Court, its impact on current hot button issues, then closing the circle to the issue of aging American politicians and their (in)ability to understand young voters' concerns. Very thoughtful in its presentation and superb in style, word choice and grammar. Student C had just been accepted at Yale!

Every single Ravalli student I met with worked after school, provided a solid to excellent draft on the assigned topic, had good social skills, came across as polite, sincere, and respectful, and was a joy to work with.

Driving home I wondered who is teaching whom...

--Wolf Ametsbichler

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