



# March 2024 Newsletter

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*WCM supporters had a fantastic time last week at Bias Brewing! Thanks to the brewery for helping WCM work toward our goal of doing away with all school fees by fall 2024. The gathering included WCM coaches & board members & staff, a new teacher partner, Whitefish Education Foundation staff, and Flathead Valley Community College staff. We couldn't ask for a better night of community-building!*

## Coaching update

WCM is delighted to announce that we have added two new Flathead school partners: Edgerton Elementary and Glacier High School, both located in Kalispell!

Below are the coaching opportunities for all trained coaches.

### March

#### **Flathead**

##### Glacier High School

10th grade, research for persuasive essay, Menssen

- [Thursday, March 21, final draft](#)
  - 2 coaches at 8:15- 9:05am
  - 4 coaches at 9:10 - 10:05am
  - 6 coaches at 10:10- 11:00 am
  - 4 coaches at 1:30 - 2:20pm

## **Missoula**

### Target Range School

6th grade, argumentative essay, Belcourt

- [Tuesday, March 12](#), first draft (Please sign up for both drafts, if possible.)
  - 10:14-11:10, 9 coaches needed
  - 12:40-1:35, 7 coaches needed
  - 1:37-2:32, 8 coaches needed
  - 2:35-3:29, 9 coaches needed
- [Tuesday, March 26](#), second draft
  - 10:14-11:10, 9 coaches needed
  - 12:40-1:35, 7 coaches needed
  - 1:37-2:32, 7 coaches needed
  - 2:35-3:29, 8 coaches needed

### Big Sky High School

Ms. Cook (more information on assignment available soon)

- [Thursday, March 14](#), single draft
  - 12:30-2:20, 2 coaches needed

### Hamilton High School

9th grade, Shakespeare analysis, Chvilicek

- [Monday, March 18](#), single draft
  - 12:20-1:50, 6 coaches needed
  - 2:00-3:30, 6 coaches needed
- [Tuesday, March 19](#), single draft
  - 2:00-3:30, 6 coaches needed

AP Humanities, choice argument assignment, Carmody

- [Tuesday, March 19](#), single draft
  - 12:20-1:50, 6 coaches needed
- [Thursday, March 21](#), single draft
  - 12:20-1:50, 6 coaches needed

### Florence-Carlton High School

12th grade, exploratory research essay, Deschamps

- [Monday, March 25](#), single draft
  - 1:25-2:18, 12 coaches needed

## **April**

### **Flathead**

#### Muldown Elementary School

4th grade, 5 paragraph essay for Wax Museum Project (weeks continue into May, below)

- [Friday, April 5, early childhood paragraph](#)
  - 12 coaches at 8:30- 9:30am
- [Friday, April 12, adulthood paragraph](#)
  - 12 coaches at 8:30- 9:30am
- [Friday, April 19, accomplishments paragraph](#)
  - 12 coaches at 8:30- 9:30am
- [Friday, April 26, impact on society](#)
  - 12 coaches at 8:30- 9:30am

### **Missoula**

#### Sentinel High School

Argumentative essay, Allison

- [Wednesday, April 3](#), single draft
  - 2:25-3:55, 7 coaches needed
- [Thursday, April 4](#), single draft
  - 12:50-2:20, 4 coaches needed
  - 2:25-3:55, 8 coaches needed

9th grade, informative essay, Britt

- [Wednesday, April 24](#), first draft (Please sign up for both drafts, if possible.)
  - 10:30-12:00, 6 coaches needed
- [Wednesday, May 1](#), second draft
  - 10:30am-12pm, 7 coaches needed
- [Thursday, April 25](#), first draft (Please sign up for both drafts, if possible.)
  - 2:25-3:55, 5 coaches needed
- [Thursday, May 2](#), second draft
  - 2:25-3:55, 5 coaches needed

## **May**

# Flathead

## Muldown Elementary School

4th grade, 5 paragraph essay for Wax Museum Project (weeks continued from April, above)

- [Friday, May 3, introductory paragraph](#)
  - 12 coaches at 8:30- 9:30am
- [Friday, May 10, finalize 5 paragraph essay](#)
  - 12 coaches at 8:30- 9:30am

Not a trained coach yet? Learn about our upcoming workshops, below, or get in touch with our coordinators.

Questions regarding coaching in the Flathead can be directed to Jeanne Wdowin

(jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org) or in Missoula/Ravalli to Kat Jackson (kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org).



## New Writing Matters podcast [episode](#) available!

Check out the new Writing Matters podcast episode, [part one, about seasonal storytelling!](#)

Part one highlights local business owners, Chapter One Bookstore customers, and a burgeoning young writer's voice.

Part two is an in-depth interview with Professor Emeritus of Native American Studies at University of Montana, Dr. Kate Shanley and will be available later this week.

## New Flathead coach training: March 20

Flathead Coordinator, Jeanne Wdowin, will be leading an in-person new coach training at Kalispell Imagine IF Library on Wednesday, March 20, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

[Register in advance](#) to receive a training video that is required viewing before the in-person portion of the workshop.

## Spring Meet-Up

WCM is hosting a virtual meet-up in April. All are welcome to join us in lifelong learning!

Kathy Dunnehoff, Flathead Valley Community College Adjunct Faculty, will be leading a workshop about how to offer critical feedback in a positive and supportive manner--April 11, 5:30-6:30pm. [Please register and find the Zoom link here.](#)

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## Welcome, Lucille, WCM's new intern!

Please welcome WCM's new intern, Lucille Vanek!

Lucille is a graduate student and teaching assistant at the University of Montana studying environmental philosophy. Prior to her current academic pursuits, Lucille earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science, with a focus in geology, and philosophy, with an emphasis in religion. She has served as a youth group coordinator for community groups in her hometown of Washington, Missouri, where she advocated for community college education. Lucille is passionate about helping students across diverse backgrounds, with a particular interest in rural education.

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**MISSOULAGIVES**

# Missoula & Bitterroot Gives: May 2 & 3!

Save the dates for our annual Missoula & Ravalli fundraiser, Missoula & Bitterroot Gives on May 2 & 3.

This year our objective is clear: do away with all school fees by fall 2024! This is a necessary step to ensure that all students--no matter the socioeconomic status of the community from which they come--can continue to afford WCM's literacy support.

More details to come soon!



## Growth Mindset: a coaches' blog

*Above: Flathead coach Bruce Bartlett (pink bowtie on right) enjoys socializing at the Fall in Love with Writing event at The Bookshelf in Kalispell during fall 2023. Bruce is in his second year of volunteering as a writing coach.*

### Writing is easy... isn't it?

"It was a dark and stormy night..."

Who can honestly say they have never heard these words? And why did they become one of the English-speaking world's most recognizable phrases?

I think it's because, in their own way, they symbolize just how rewarding (and, concomitantly, how difficult) \*good\* writing is to come by. Just as \*saying\* "A five year old can do \*that\*" when viewing, say, a work by Piet Mondrian is easy enough, it's another thing entirely to back up a claim like that.

And thus it is—for most of us, it seems—that one may be convinced that good writing can't really be all that difficult, now, can it? After all, it doesn't place the kinds of physical demands on us that running a marathon would. It's "just mental"—literally, a "no sweat" endeavor.

And yet, with the possible exception of a handful of writers (although I know of none who have made the claim) who are able to write truly memorable stories or articles in a single, effortless draft, the fact is: captivating, thought-provoking, even belly laugh-inducing writing isn't readily—or easily—come by.

It's surprising just how catalytic a question from a genuinely interested reader (read: writing coach)—or an encouraging word—to young people seeking to transform from authorial chrysalis to adulthood, can be. At our best, writing coaches do what the best coaches in any discipline do: inspire their charges to recognize and strengthen their skills... hopefully to the extent that they become aware and proud of, and confident in, their talents, and challenge themselves to produce work that is truly reflective of an individual style, and a unique voice.

--Coach Bruce

### Contact us:

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