



# January 2024 Newsletter

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*Coaching opportunities*

*Save the date: Bias Brewing pint night in Kalispell*

*New coach workshop*

*Thank you, holiday donors!*

*Growth Mindset: Connections of a Writing Coach*



Last semester coaches worked with Florence-Carlton Middle School students on essays regarding various types of intelligence.

## Coaching update

Let's kick off 2024 with coaching! Trained coaches can sign up for the following opportunities:

### **Flathead**

#### Whitefish Middle School

8th grade, English Language Arts, Personal Narrative

- [Thurs. Jan. 30](#), Second Draft (First draft full)

- 11:26am-12:13pm, 3 coaches needed
- 1:00-1:48pm, 2 coaches needed

## **Ravalli**

### Corvallis High School

12th grade, AP US History, Principles of American Democracy

- [Monday, January 29](#), Second Draft (First draft already occurred)
  - 8:30-10:05am, 1 coach needed

Not a trained coach yet? Learn about our upcoming workshops, below.

Questions regarding coaching in the Flathead can be directed to Jeanne Wdowin ([jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org)) or in Missoula/Ravalli to Kat Jackson ([kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org)).

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**bias**brewing  
KALISPELL, MONTANA

## **Bias Brewing Pint Night: Save the Date**

Join us at [Bias Brewing in Kalispell](#) on Thursday, February 29th for a pint night fundraiser!

From 5-8pm, \$1 of every pint purchased will be donated to WCM. Bias Brewing is also donating a "Friends with Benefits" membership to be raffled off, which includes:

ONE FREE GROWLER FILL PER MONTH

ONE FREE 12OZ BEVERAGE ON BIAS PER MONTH

**DRINK FREE ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!**  
(UP TO 48OZ IN THE TAPROOM OR A GROWLER FILL TO GO)

10% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE AND GLASSWARE

Tickets can be purchased in advanced now through 4pm on February 29th. Email [admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org) to purchase: \$5 for 1 ticket, \$20 for 5 tickets. Tickets can also be purchased in-person at the event from 5-8pm on February 29th.

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## **New coach workshop**

Our next new coach training takes place virtually. Register in advance to receive training materials from your local coordinator.

[Register here: Wednesday, January 31, 5:30-8:30pm](#) via Zoom.

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## **Thank you, holiday donors!**

*Above: Coach Steve (left) was our lucky quilt raffle winner! He received his prize, made and donated by Coach Denise (right), while they coached at Hamilton High School earlier this week. As one of our new Friends of WCM monthly donors and a dedicated WCM Ravalli coach, we are delighted for Steve!*

Because of your generosity, WCM was able to achieve its goal of having 10 monthly Friends of WCM donors! Everyone who donated this holiday season helped us get one step closer to ensuring WCM's coaching services remain available to all schools.

# Thank you

FOR YOUR DONATION



## Growth Mindset: a coaches' blog

*Above: Coach Mary Louise works with a student at CS Porter Middle School. She has been volunteering with WCM since 2010.*

### Connections of a Writing Coach

Human connections are necessary for our survival. We are social creatures, relying on others for cooperation and support. Our physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing depend on these connections. We need each other.

Communicating with others is a basic human need and the fundamental skill upon which all human relationship skills are built. Healthy living involves interacting and engaging with others, and our primary means of doing so is through shared language. Language is our primary means of communication. It is through language communication that we are able to share our ideas, opinions, views, and emotions with another person. With that exchange, we can connect - we can identify with and feel empathy toward another, giving us a sense of “belonging”. Through the use of language we can make sense of complex and abstract thought and new awareness can emerge in the midst of learning. We learn from each other.

While language is a tool, communication is an experience. Communication can be described as an act of transmitting ideas, information, or messages from one person or place to another via words or signs which are understood by both parties. It's a crucial activity for any group of beings because it is the means by which members of the group cooperate for the benefit of all.

All forms of communication have the same goal, which is to be understood. This is best accomplished through the dissemination of information in a clear, comprehensible, and concise manner, based on credible and logical reasoning. To be heard and understood is a basic need for all of us. There are skills which can be learned to better fulfill this basic need. A writing coach works with the students to become clearer about their communication goals and use that clarity to make more purposeful decisions about how they use language to communicate. In this way, a writing coach enhances a student's ability to express him/herself well, providing an opportunity to be truly heard and understood, thereby creating greater human connection. Honing our communication skills not only enhances any given exchange, but advances our communal efforts in becoming a healthier society at large.

With a coach's help, the students can learn to become better at communicating their message to others. As a writing coach, I have been gifted with experiencing new and different points of view on various topics and themes that are of import to the students. Each time I have coached a student, I have experienced a new awareness of what they find important and how they are finding their place in this world. They give me hope for our future, and I need that in my life.

Why we need each other is simple – we are social beings; we have a desire to belong; we learn from each other.

*“We must support each other and empathize with each other because each of us is more alike than we are unlike.”* –  
Maya Angelou

--Mary Louise Zapp Knapp

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