



## October 2022 Newsletter



### Coaching Update

We were delighted to train a whopping **39 new coaches** in September! Thanks to everyone who joined our community and helped recruit new coaches.

Our coordinators, Jeanne and Kat, are hard at work connecting with teachers during the 2022-2023 school year. Trained Flathead coaches can sign up for our first sessions now, and we hope to get more on the calendar across all counties asap. Our coordinators will be in touch when that happens.

*Pictured (from left to right): Previous board member, Jana Stanton, and current board members Dr. Beverly Chin, Linda Whittlesey, and Michelle Miewald. Thank you to everyone who attended our First Friday event at Shakespeare & Co. in September! The event helped raise funds for this school year and recruit new coaches. We hope to see you for our Back to School event again next year!*

[CHECK OUT COACHING CALENDAR](#)

### Indigenous Worldviews Meetup: Oct. 18th

WCM is delighted to host our first meet-up of the 2022-2023 school year on Tuesday, October 18, 5:30-6:30pm. Meet-ups are a space for all WCM supporters to gather and discuss best practices in education, community support, and coaching.

Our first topic is Indigenous Worldviews and will be facilitated by new WCM board member, Matt Bell. Matt previously taught in Missoula County Public Schools and is now working for the Montana Office of Public Instruction in the Tribal Relations & Resiliency Department as the Culture and Language Specialist.

Join Matt and WCM staff to discuss how a sense of place affects worldviews across cultures, with a specific focus on Indigenous worldviews.

This meet-up is the beginning of an exciting new WCM endeavor: a **lending library!** We encourage folks to get in touch with our director ([cassie@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:cassie@writingcoachesofmontana.org)) to borrow titles which will enrich discussion. The titles we have to offer so far include:

- [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer;
- [Fools Crow](#) by Montana author James Welch;
- [Power & Place: Indian Education in America](#) by Vine Deloria Jr. & Daniel R. Wildcat;
- [There There](#) by Tommy Orange;
- [Thunderous](#) by Montana authors M.L. Smoker & Natalie Peeterse.
- We also encourage participants (and all WCM supporters!) to review the [Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians](#).

Our lending library will continue to grow throughout the year, reflecting titles which speak to our meet-up topics.

You can join this meet-up through [this Zoom link](#). Registration is not required--but encouraged--so that we can email folks discussion questions in advance.

[REGISTER FOR MEET-UP](#)

### Daily Inter Lake Coverage



The *Daily Inter Lake* wrote a wonderful piece about our programming in the Flathead. Thanks to Coach Hallie (above left) and Coordinator Jeanne (above right) for speaking with the reporter about their coaching experiences!

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE](#)



### Welcome to our new intern, Julia!

My name is Julia Wynne, and I am from Bigfork, Montana. I am currently in my third year at the University of Montana, studying English Literature, Creative Writing, and Psychology. In my downtime, I enjoy spending time with my family, listening to music (mostly Broadway show tunes), and reading. For as long as I can remember, writing and education have been central parts of my life. I believe it is through reading the stories of others as well as sharing our own, that we grow as individuals.

I am excited to work with Writing Coaches of Montana this year as an intern, as I am eager to gain experience outside of the classroom. I look forward to the opportunities to develop marketing skills and learn the operations of a nonprofit organization. Primarily, though, I hope to use my passion for writing and education to hopefully make a positive impact in the lives of others. I believe in the purpose and mission of WCM and feel so grateful for the opportunity to join its community.

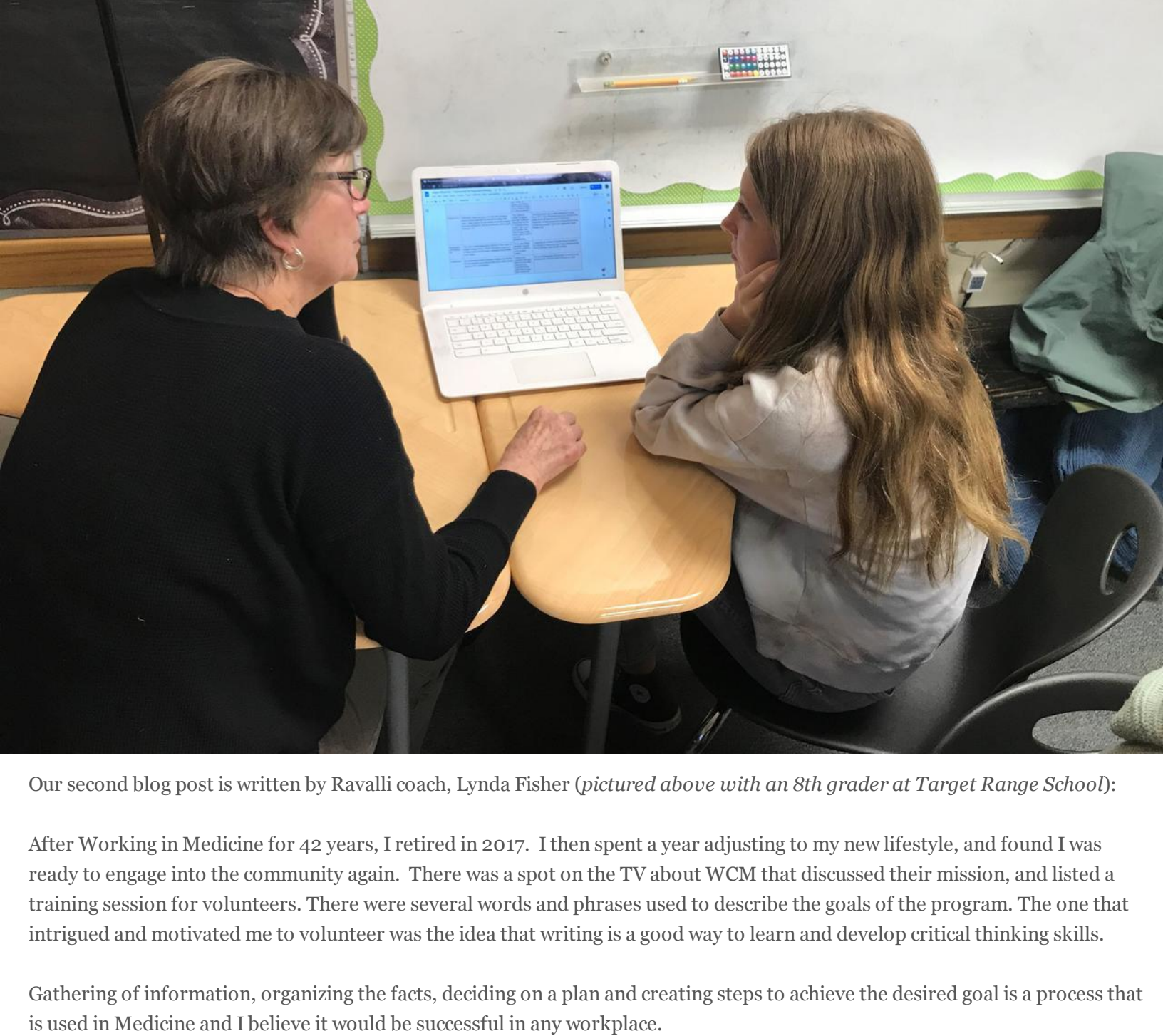


### Corporate Sponsorship

Thank you to Orange Street Food Farm for sponsoring WCM! The Missoula-based, family-owned grocery store provided funding to cover the costs of training our 39 new coaches in September.

We couldn't do literacy and community work without corporate sponsors! Email Executive Director, Cassie Sheets, at [cassie@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:cassie@writingcoachesofmontana.org) to discuss the mutual benefits of a corporate sponsorship today.

### Growth Mindset: A Coaches' Blog



Our second blog post is written by Ravalli coach, Lynda Fisher (*pictured above with an 8th grader at Target Range School*):

After Working in Medicine for 42 years, I retired in 2017. I then spent a year adjusting to my new lifestyle, and found I was ready to engage into the community again. There was a spot on the TV about WCM that discussed their mission, and listed a training session for volunteers. There were several words and phrases used to describe the goals of the program. The one that intrigued and motivated me to volunteer was the idea that writing is a good way to learn and develop critical thinking skills.

Gathering of information, organizing the facts, deciding on a plan and creating steps to achieve the desired goal is a process that is used in Medicine and I believe it would be successful in any workplace.

I was slightly intimidated at the training session when I realized I was the only one there with no work experience in formal education or English. I have found I am able to help students from a different perspective, and have thoroughly enjoyed my experience. The students are receptive to suggestions, and willing to share their thoughts about the overall message of their paper. Most times, our conversations lead to how their life experiences relate to the statements in their paper.

I have also enjoyed the conversation and friendship extended to me by Cassie, Kat, and the other coaches. There are coaches from many professional backgrounds, which provides the students with a rich diverse writing experience.

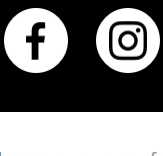
WCM is a positive outreach program that provides an opportunity for sharing of knowledge and life experience on a one to one basis. A gift of time that enriches us all.

--Lynda Fisher

**Contact us:**

admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org  
406-529-5629

PO Box 7592  
Missoula, MT 59807



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