



November 2022 Newsletter



After their sessions at Big Sky High School last month, coaches (from left) Denise, Warren, and Missy stuck around to discuss coaching best practices and how to engage students.

Coaching Update

We are in the thick of fall coaching!

We still need coaches to register for the following sessions:

- Whitefish Middle School (Flathead): Nov. 14, 15
- Washington Middle School (Missoula): Nov. 15, 16, 18, 21
- Kalispell Middle School (Flathead): Nov. 18
- Sentinel High School (Missoula): Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8
- Hamilton High School (Ravalli): Dec. 13, 14

All session details and registrations can be accessed through our [coaching calendar](#).

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

[CHECK OUT COACHING CALENDAR](#)



Giving Tuesday & Amazon Smile

We are participating in [Giving Tuesday on November 29th!](#) This is the kickoff to our Giving Season.

Our goal is to raise **\$5,000 before the new year**, to help cover the costs of working with low-income schools.

Please consider giving any time during November or December to help us reach our goal:

- **\$25** = a background check for a new coach
- **\$150** = recruitment costs for a round of coaching
- **\$500** = 150 coaching sessions
- Another way to support WCM is by signing up for our Friends of WCM monthly giving program. Instead of giving once, monthly installments allow WCM to be sustainably supported throughout the year. **Just click the box at the bottom of our [donation page](#) to join** (and be entered for fun raffle gift certificates throughout the year)!

Another easy way to give is to do your seasonal online shopping at [Amazon Smile](#) and choose "Writing Coaches of Montana" as your charity. All applicable sales will donate **.5% of your purchases to WCM!**

[DONATE](#)

Save the Dates: Pint Nights!

Want a fun way to help us raise funds this Giving Season? Join WCM for a pint night!

- **Tuesday, December 6, 5-8pm, [Dram Shop Central](#) in Missoula**
- **Thursday, December 8, 5-8pm, [Bias Brewing](#) in Kalispell**

\$1 per pint sale will be donated to WCM during both events.

At **Bias Brewing**, we will also have a raffle for a year-long brewery membership (\$5/1 ticket; \$20/5 tickets). Tickets can be purchased in-person during the event or by [donating online](#) from now until 5pm on 12/8. (Send an email to cassie@writingcoachesofmontana.org after making your online donation to be entered for the raffle.)

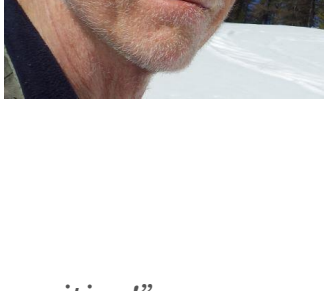
At each pint night, WCM will host a **friendly writing competition**. More details will be shared in our December newsletter, but in the meantime, save the dates!

[BUY RAFFLE TICKETS](#)



Growth Mindset: A Coaches' Blog

This post, written by Flathead Coach Bob Lund, is a collection of three essays sure to make readers laugh and cry:



Teach English? A piece of cake.

"You must jump in," she said.

"I can't. There are sharks there, in the ocean, waiting!"

"Jump!" my aunt said. "Prove yourself, prove your courage."

The sophomore English teacher had invited the Writing Coaches. Her assignment was "tell what you did last summer". Their first draft was ready. We were to help work on it. The students knew we would return in a week, check progress, and help finalize. I matched up with Istir. Off we went to find a quiet place to work.

Helping him find a "grabber" first sentence was not a problem. He was about to be eaten by sharks.

His family was from the Seychelles (off the coast of East Africa). His aunt and family still live there. His mom sent him to spend the summer with family in the Seychelles.

"I was terrified. How can I? My brain was screaming. The men in the boat were no help. My aunt was not going to back down. I grew for 15 years only to be ripped apart by sharks. No one listened to me. Shut up. They were disgusted. Picked me up and threw me in."

As he read, he would hear the rough patches. I said, "Stop and make a note or correction on the spot." He was embarrassed.

My coaching cue, "Don't be. You see how reading out loud to another person helps you hear what needs to be corrected. Do you have someone to read to at home, as you work on this draft?"

"No, but I'll find someone."

As we walked back to the classroom, I thought 'that was productive'. He was a fast learner, and excited by his writing improvements. Once again we reviewed the several areas that needed fixing, and his plan. He was confident. "Yes, I'll get that done."

I thought to myself, here is someone to win contests down the road.

A week later, the Writing Coaches were back in her classroom. I scanned the students looking for the three I had worked with. Saw two of them and we had a good follow up on their drafts.

Finished with them, I went to the teacher, "Where is Istir? Did I miss him?"

She said, "He did not come to school today."

She saw my disappointment and continued, "He comes to school once in a while. He misses days."

"That young man has talent."

She agreed and started to tear up, "I know. I know. He has to stay home to take care of his brothers and sisters."

As I drove out of the parking lot, I talked out loud to my car. "There she is. Teaches English to four classes of over 20 young people each, more than eighty students. And her heart breaks."

[READ MORE ESSAYS BY COACH BOB](#)



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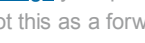
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for your support!

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