

**Writing Coaches**  
of montana  
"Community Mentors Coaching Young Writers"

## Coaching Update

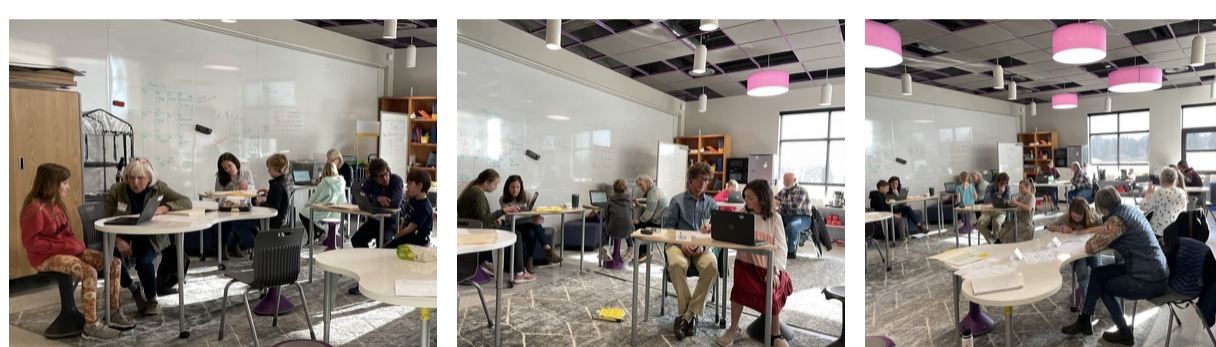
Coaches are vital to Writing Coaches of Montana. Without you, we don't exist. We greatly appreciate your dedication and are grateful for the participation that you have shown this year. Particularly, we would like to thank Bill Buseman for donating more time than he initially signed up for in order to ensure each student received adequate time with a coach. We have 8 weeks left of the school year, and we anticipate more requests as June draws near. Please double check your calendar to see if you can fill any of these openings:

- On April 13, 5 more coaches are needed at 11:00, at Columbia Falls High School to coach short stories from the senior class and 2 more are needed at 12:30.
- On April 20, 6 more coaches are needed at 8:30am, to listen to Hamilton High School students' family histories written in a similar fashion as "A River Runs Through It".
- On Friday, April 22 and April 29, 4th graders at Muldown Elementary in Whitefish will be sharing essays about a famous person they have chosen to feature in their end of the year wax museum project. We need 7 more coaches for this event.
- In Missoula, we will be working with Tammi Allison at Sentinel High School. We need 6 coaches for Wednesday, April 27th and 7 coaches for Thursday, April 28th.
- With the April 13th online training coming up, we would appreciate you recruiting individuals to register to train and become a volunteer to coach. Share your experience with someone so they can understand how rewarding it is to collaborate with students and how fulfilling it is to know that we contribute to a better community by becoming involved in our local public schools.

We would also like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of the coaches who attended Dr. Jinjing Sun's workshop last month. It was a lively, enlightening discussion about how we, as coaches, can help motivate students to write, and to find passion while doing it! Dr. Sun highlighted fascinating research perspectives and we were able to discuss the cognitive factors that affect students' motivation. Dr Sun stated: "It was fun to meet everyone and talk about writing! I'd love to hear if any coaches try out the strategies and see if they are effective."

If you found her talk to be helpful and want to share your own experiences, please email intern Shasta Hecht ([shasta@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:shasta@writingcoachesofmontana.org)).

If you were unable to attend and would like to see the video, please email Shasta for the Zoom recording.



*Pictured: Writing coach volunteers working with students at Muldown Elementary in Whitefish.*



## Get ready for Missoula & Bitterroot Gives!

Missoula and Bitterroot Gives is coming up fast on May 5th & 6th -- that's only four weeks away! To help us reach our fundraising goals, we would greatly appreciate if **ten coaches** actively helped us to fundraise. Research shows that peer-to-peer fundraising is one of the most effective fundraising tools and not only raises money, but helps to build important community bonds. This can look like a

myriad of things: reaching out to family members, community members, friends, creating a personal fundraising goal to reach by the Missoula and Bitterroot Gives timeline.

Moving into the next school year, we hope to:

- Expand permanent staffing positions;
- Increase the number of coaching sessions;
- Decrease school sliding scale percentages for financial contributions.

In order to accomplish these goals, fundraising is of the utmost importance!

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please email coordinator Kat Jackson ([kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org)).



## New volunteer training on 4/13

**REMINDER:** Our last volunteer training of the year is coming up on **Wednesday April 13th from 6-8:45 pm**. This will be an opportunity for all coaches (both new and current) to refresh on WCM's coaching model, mission, and helpful techniques. This will also be a time to ask any questions you may have, and to address potential concerns.

In order to sign up, please visit our [coaching calendar!](#)



## Partnership with Missoula Aging Services

WCM is delighted to form a partnership with a fellow nonprofit, Missoula Aging Services. This organization has worked with thousands of volunteers for nearly 40 years, providing services and volunteer opportunities to individuals 55 and over. We look forward to this mutually beneficial relationship: MAS helping to recruit coaches through its RSVP program and WCM provides meaningful service opportunities for Missoula residents with years of wisdom and experience to share with students.

## Welcome to our newest WCM community member!

On April 2 Executive Director Cassie Sheets-Kavanagh and her husband, Devin Kavanagh, welcomed their first child, Dublin Elizabeth Kavanagh, into the world. We wish the family great bonding time as Mom takes time off from WCM. Cassie will be available for virtual meetings starting next month. In the meantime, please contact Missoula & Ravalli Coordinator, Kat Jackson ([kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org)), or Flathead Coordinator, Jeanne Wdowin ([jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org)), regarding coach or teacher inquiries.



## Media coverage

Exciting news! WCM has been featured in the *Missoulian*. Click this [link](#) to read about our work at Target Range School, and share it with your friends and family. The work your coaches are doing is truly impacting students!



With gratitude,

The WCM Team

[www.writingcoachesofmontana.org](http://www.writingcoachesofmontana.org)

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