



November 2023 Newsletter

In this newsletter:

Coaching opportunities

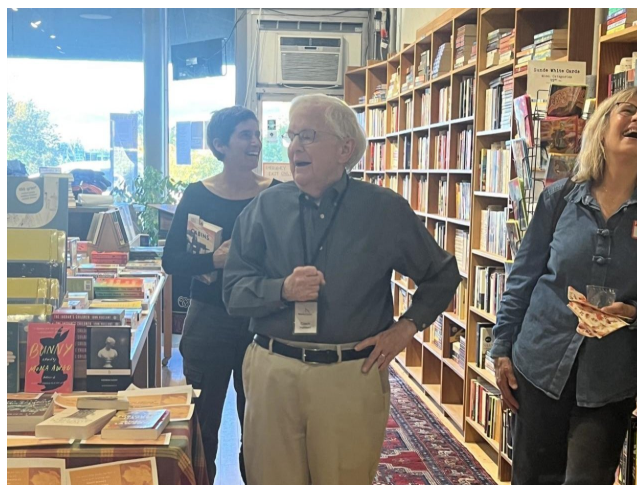
Giving Tuesday is November 28th!

New coach workshops

Chapter One Bookstore December events

Gender & language inclusion meet-up

Growth Mindset: Previous bookstore owner/current coach's reflection



We had a marvelous time falling in love with writing at bookstore events in October. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported WCM's mission!

Above, left: A Kalispell Middle School student explains how coaching helped increase his writerly confidence.

Above, right: At Shakespeare & Co. in Missoula, Coach Herbert delights the crowd while explaining his approach as a mutual learner alongside students.

Coaching update

We are in the heart of fall coaching! Trained coaches can sign up for the following opportunities:

Flathead

Kalispell Middle School

7th grade, Language Arts/Social Studies Revolutionary War research project

- [Friday, November 17](#), Single Draft
 - 9:55-10:45am, 3 coaches needed
 - 10:50-11:40am, 3 coaches needed
 - 11:45am-12:35pm, 6 coaches needed
 - 1:15-2:05pm, 5 coaches needed
 - 2:10-3pm, 6 coaches needed

Missoula

Sentinel High School

11th grade, *The Great Gatsby*, Ms. Schick Language Arts

- [Thursday, November 16](#), Second Draft (First draft is full.)
 - 9:40-11:10am, 1 coach needed

9th grade, *Of Mice and Men*, Ms. Schick Language Arts

- [Thursday, December 7](#), Second Draft (First draft is full.)
 - 2:25-3:55pm, 1 coach needed

Ravalli

Florence-Carlton High School

12th grade, Ms. Deschamps Language Arts

- [Thursday, November 16](#), Single Draft
 - 1:25-2:18, 6 coaches needed
- [Friday, November 17](#), Single Draft
 - 1:25-2:18, 6 coaches needed

Florence-Carlton Middle School

8th grade, Ms. Petit Language Arts

- [Friday, December 1](#), First Draft (Please sign up for the first and second draft, if possible, to be paired with the same student.)
 - 8:10-9:03am, 11 coaches needed
 - 11:01-11:54am, 13 coaches needed
 - 12:42-1:26pm, 11 coaches needed
- [Friday, December 8](#), Second Draft (Please sign up for the first and second draft, if possible, to be paired with the same student.)
 - 8:10-9:03am, 11 coaches needed

- 11:01-11:54am, 13 coaches needed
- 12:42-1:26pm, 11 coaches 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) or in Missoula/Ravalli to Kat Jackson (kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org).



**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Giving Tuesday kicks off the giving season on November 28th!

WCM's fundraising goal for the rest of this school year is to raise enough donations to **do away with school fees entirely by fall 2024**. Coaching needs to be accessible to all students, no matter schools' financial restraints.

[But we cannot do that without your help!](#)

On Giving Tuesday (November 28th), WCM aims to increase Friends of WCM donors who commit to an automatic monthly payment over the course of a calendar year.

Friends of WCM monthly giving allows each dollar to make a bigger impact. With a regular stream of income throughout the year, our small but mighty staff can focus less on fundraising and more on what matters: supporting students in classrooms, cultivating teacher relationships, and supporting coaches to connect meaningfully with young writers.

We also love Friends of WCM because it makes impactful giving accessible for people of different income levels. For the following monthly costs, you can change students' lives:

- [A few lattes \(\\$15/month\)](#) covers the cost of 36 coaching sessions.
- [A tank of gas \(\\$50/month\)](#) pays for 30 volunteer background checks.
- [A dinner date \(\\$100/month\)](#) jumpstarts a relationship with a new school system.

You can become a Friends of WCM donor by going to our [website](#), entering in your monthly donation amount, and then clicking the "make this a monthly payment" button when prompted to submit your payment.

When you become a Friends of WCM donor, you are entered into local prize opportunities saved especially for this highly-committed group of supporters.

One of our current Friends of WCM donors attested that, "as a monthly donor, I have confidence that I will not forget to support Writing Coaches of Montana, a program which is close to my heart. In addition, I can choose the amount that works for me and have an easily accessed record of my donations."

Whichever organizations you choose to support on [Giving Tuesday](#), we hope that you'll embrace the giving spirit.

Thank you to all WCM donors for supporting student literacy and teachers' efforts!

DONATE

New coach workshops

Do you want to support local youth? Check out our new coach training workshops across Western Montana. We'll teach you how to talk to students, ask questions to help deepen students' critical thinking, and support local teachers.

After attending the training, coaches are paired with a mentor coach to help them get acquainted with the coaching process.

Register in advance to receive training materials:

- Flathead: [Monday, November 6](#), 10:30am-12:30pm, Kalispell ImagineIF Library
 - Ravalli: [Saturday, November 11th](#), 12:30-2:30pm, Bitterroot Public Library
 - Missoula: [Monday, November 27th](#), 5-7pm, Missoula Public Library
-



Chapter One Bookstore Holiday Events!

What is more enjoyable than giving books to your loved ones this holiday season, while simultaneously donating to school literacy efforts?

Trick question: nothing!

During the **entire month of December**, you can purchase several titles (books to be announced soon!) at Chapter One Bookstore in Hamilton, Montana, and the **store will donate a 20% of those sales to WCM**. For supporters in Flathead and Missoula who cannot visit the store in Hamilton, [you can order books over the phone by December 13 and have them delivered by WCM staff by mid-December.](#)

Save the date for two WCM events at the bookstore in Hamilton:

- **Friday, December 1**: Grow your heart three times in size when you attend the bookstore's Grinch-themed holiday kickoff event. You might even see some recognizable WCM staff dressed as folks from Whoville.
- **Friday, December 8**: Enjoy a live window event in the storefront! Missoula/Ravalli Coordinator Kat Jackson & Executive Director Cassie Sheets will be recording live for WCM's **new podcast, Writing Matters**. (Look for an email next week to access the first podcast episode!)
- We will also be **raffling a beautiful Winter Wonderland (blue & white) quilt** made and donated by Ravalli coach Denise Mahrer. Raffle tickets can be purchased online via our [website](#) until December 31 and during both in-person events at Chapter One Bookstore. If purchased through the website, please email admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org to let staff know you wish to receive tickets.

Give a book to support young writers this holiday season!



Volunteer meet-up: gender & language inclusion

Don't forget to join us virtually this Monday, November 6, 5:30-6:30pm for a WCM community discussion. [Register here](#).

At the request of coaches, this meet-up will discuss gender representation and how language, particularly pronouns, may be used to reflect a diversity of identities today.

Missoula/Ravalli Coordinator Kat Jackson will co-facilitate this event with Nancy Singleton, former WCM board member and retired elementary school principal.



Growth Mindset: a coaches' blog

Above: coach Russ Lawrence works with a student at Corvallis High School. Russ was the previous owner of Chapter One Bookstore in Hamilton, Montana.

Facing One's Fears

I have a contrary streak, one that intensifies when I fail at, or am intimidated by something. I often turn around and confront it directly, and while that trait doesn't always end well, many times it has helped me to grow in ways that have enriched my life.

As a toddler, I'm told that I once spent a potentially unhealthy amount of time face-down in a wading pool, an incident that no doubt contributed to my reluctance to let go of the edge of any swimming pool until I was eight or nine years old (luckily, I was not in fact injured). In high school, I stubbornly decided to overcome that lingering issue by joining the swimming team, eventually becoming co-captain.

I have been fascinated by airplanes and flight since my earliest days, but the first few times I was taken aloft, I got airsick. In my twenties, I set about earning my pilot's license and subsequently spent hundreds of hours at the controls, thrilling to the sensation of being one with the wind.

The first time my 11-year-old self ever stood on a stage and faced an audience, with lights seeming to shine from every direction, I froze. I shuffled off the stage in abject

humiliation, but in the decades since I have enjoyed a stage career that has been thrilling and fulfilling—once I learned how to channel that fear into creative energy. As a child of the 60's and 70's, I grew up at a time when, in some circles, “business” and unfettered capitalism were reviled. In my college studies I assiduously avoided anything to do with business and economics, and I still have some lingering issues with modern capitalism. When I bought Chapter One Book Store in Hamilton in 1986, though, it was the beginning of a journey that has led me to an understanding of how small, locally-owned businesses can help define a community in a positive way.

That it was a bookstore made it easier to accept that yes, now I was deeply into retail, almost as deeply as I was into debt, two things I had tried to avoid up to that point. Once again, I had to face something that I found alien and intimidating, but I applied myself to learning business skills, and succeeded beyond any reasonable expectations. (I ended up teaching basic business skills to other booksellers, and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Small Business Development in Peru).

To be clear – I was never a standout swimmer, my flying skills fell far short of fighter-pilot level, no business school would ever use my management of Chapter One as a case study, and I'll leave it to others to judge my performances on stage, but all have brought a richness and pleasure to my life that I might never have experienced had I not confronted those fears directly.

I have never felt that way about writing. I have always enjoyed it and, with few exceptions, have rarely felt any trepidation about sharing my work with others. I've been a freelance writer since 1979, including work as a newspaper journalist, which required submitting my work to an editor and then to the public, often on a deadline schedule that didn't allow for agonizing over re-writes.

Now, as a writing coach, I draw on all those experiences, and honor the courage it takes for a student to share their work with me. With every student, I get to combine the pleasure that I take in writing, with the empathy that I feel for someone experiencing the potential anxiety of the coaching encounter, and I look on it as an opportunity for both of us to grow.

I know that my coaching skills have grown since my own anxiety-filled first student/coach encounters, but at this point in my life it's not my own personal growth that keeps me coming back. What keeps me signing up is the knowledge that I may have helped someone confront what to them is a daunting task, and accompanied them for a time on their own road to mastery.

--Russ Lawrence

Contact us:

admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org
406-529-5629

PO Box 7592
Missoula, MT 59807



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

PO Box 7592 | Missoula, MT 59807 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.