



October 2023 Newsletter

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Above: Coach Cindy works with a student at Sentinel High School. We think the library decorations align well with WCM's coaching philosophy!

Coaching update

Our first coaching sessions of the 2023-2024 school year are on the calendar! Trained coaches can sign up through the links below:

Flathead

Whitefish High School, Whitefish City Growth Policy research paper (If possible, please make sure to sign up for both drafts so you can be paired with the same student.)

- [1st draft: Wednesday, Nov. 1](#)
 - 9:58-11:31am, 4 coaches needed
 - 12:16-1:49pm, 2 coaches needed
- [2nd draft: Wednesday, Nov. 8](#)
 - 9:58-11:31am, 2 coaches needed

Whitefish High School, Whitefish City Growth Policy research paper (If possible, please make sure to sign up for both drafts so you can be paired with the same student.)

- [1st draft: Thursday, Nov. 2](#)
 - 9:58-11:31am, 6 coaches needed
 - 12:16-1:49pm, 6 coaches needed
 - 1:54-3:27pm, 4 coaches needed
- [2nd draft: Thursday, Nov. 9](#)
 - 9:58-11:31am, 5 coaches needed
 - 12:16-1:49pm, 5 coaches needed
 - 1:54-3:27pm, 4 coaches needed

Missoula

Sentinel High School, 11th grade, *The Great Gatsby* (If possible, please make sure to sign up for both drafts so you can be paired with the same student.)

- [1st draft: Wednesday, Nov. 8](#)
 - 7:55-9:25am, 4 coaches needed
- [2nd draft: Wednesday, Nov. 15](#)
 - 7:55-9:25am, 5 coaches needed

Sentinel High School, 11th grade, *The Great Gatsby* (If possible, please make sure to sign up for both drafts so you can be paired with the same student.)

- [1st draft: Thursday, Nov. 9](#)
 - 7:55-9:25am, 6 coaches needed
- [2nd draft: Thursday, Nov. 16](#)
 - 7:55-9:25am, 6 coaches needed

Sentinel High School, 9th grade, *Of Mice and Men* (If possible, please make sure to sign up for both drafts so you can be paired with the same student.)

- [1st draft, Wednesday, Nov. 29](#)
 - 9:35-11:05am, 3 coaches needed
 - 1:30-3:00pm, 3 coaches needed
- [2nd draft, Wednesday, Dec. 6](#)
 - 9:35-11:05am, 3 coaches needed
 - 1:30-3:00pm, 2 coaches needed

Sentinel High School, 9th grade, *Of Mice and Men* (If possible, please make sure to sign up for both drafts so you can be paired with the same student.)

- [1st draft, Thursday, Nov. 30](#)
 - 12:25-1:55pm, 2 coaches needed
- [2nd draft, Thursday, Dec. 7](#)
 - 12:25-1:55pm, 2 coaches needed

Not a trained coach yet? See 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).





Fall in love with writing at your local bookstores!

Celebrate the books that helped us fall in love with the craft of writing. And enjoy shares from students, teachers, and coaches about the impact WCM has on students' love of writing.

Drinks & snacks will be provided. The more the merrier, so please bring friends to wine & dine for a writerly good time!

[Friday, October 6 at Shakespeare & Co. in Missoula, 5:30-7:30pm](#)

- Donated raffle items:
 - Bernice's Bakery coffee, mug, & free drink
 - Betty's Divine earrings, wallet, & headband
 - Big Creek Coffee Roasters coffee, chocolate, & free drinks
 - LindaLu hat & scarf set
 - LindaLu necklace & earring set
 - Meadowsweet Herbs concoctions
 - Shakespeare & Co. books & certificate

[Tuesday, October 17 at The Bookshelf in Kalispell, 4-6pm](#)

- Donated raffle items:
 - The Bookshelf books & certificate
 - Hellroaring Saloon & Eatery certificate
 - *Whitefish Review: Into the Unknown, #28*
 - Homemade baked goods
 - Homemade knitted blanket

Raffle tickets are **\$5 for 1 ticket** or **\$20 for 5 tickets**. If you cannot attend either event but wish to purchase raffle tickets, reach out to admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org.

We haven't forgotten your local indie bookstore, Ravalli County! Save the date for a special holiday event at **Chapter One Bookstore in Hamilton on Friday, December 1st**. More details to come soon!

New coach workshops

Do you care about young people's voices? Are you interested in a flexible volunteer experience? Attend our new coach training to find out more about volunteering as a writing coach! We have upcoming training workshops in all counties:

- Missoula: [Thursday, October 12](#), 3-5pm, Missoula Public Library
 - Flathead: [Monday, November 6](#), 10:30am-12:30pm, Kalispell ImagineIF Library
 - Ravalli: [Saturday, November 11th](#), 12:30-2:30pm, Bitterroot Public Library
-



Above: Mentor coach Denise Mahrer works with a student at Corvallis High School.

Inaugural mentor coach cohort

WCM is delighted to welcome our first cohort of mentor coaches! Seven experienced, outstanding coaches have volunteered above & beyond to welcome newly trained coaches throughout the current school year. Each mentor will be assigned new volunteers who can shadow a coaching session with their mentor, meet up for coffee to chat about coaching strategies, and get to know their fellow community do-gooders.

We hope that this peer-to-peer mentorship program encourages new coaches to build relationships within the WCM community and hop into the coaching schedule with confidence and fervor. Anyone with a curious mind and desire to help young people can become a great coach, especially now with a trustee mentor at their side!

Thank you to our mentor coaches for the '23-'24 school year:

- Flathead: Hallie Brown, Jill Mueth, Katie Ward
 - Missoula: Nancy Singleton, Herbert Swick, Marie Louise Zapp-Knapp
 - Ravalli: Denise Mahrer
-

Volunteer meet-up: gender & language inclusion

Coaches: you asked, and we heard you!

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 be co-facilitating this event with Nancy Singleton, former WCM board member and retired elementary school principal.

Save the date for Monday, November 6, 5:30-6:30pm. [Register here.](#)



Growth Mindset: a coaches' blog

Above, mentor coach Jill Mueth works with a student at Muldown Elementary in Whitefish. As a retired school counselor, Jill understands the importance of supporting students in her community:

Last school year was a truly amazing experience being a Montana Writing Coach in the Flathead Valley. There were so many wonderful kids and writing assignments! What impressed me the most was the dedication of the teachers and the seriousness with which the students took their projects. In two schools, I was lucky to have volunteered through more than one iteration of writing and got to see several of my group of middle schoolers more than once. The change in their writing from one session to the next was inspiring!

The assignments are thought-provoking and my duty as coach was to assist the students to expand and extend both the depth and breadth of their writing. What was so lovely was that regardless of the varied skill level of the writers, they all seemed to take the coaching seriously and wanted to turn out a nice piece of work. My job to encourage them seemed pretty easy!

Speaking of encouragement, I'd like to encourage anyone to become a Montana Writing Coach. Your fellow coaches are warm, kind, funny, and generous. The teachers are so grateful that you can help with this huge task; they simply cannot do the deep dive on large assignments with every young writer! You will go home with a big smile knowing that you have met some great kids and helped even just a little bit to have them believe in themselves as writers. It's not a big job, but it might be just what is needed for this particular child on this particular day. JOIN US!

--Jill Mueth

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