



# May 2023 Newsletter

In this newsletter:  
*Missoula & Bitterroot Gives May 4 & 5*  
*Appreciation picnics May 17 & 19*  
*Lending library*  
*A new mom's literacy reflection*



WCM held its first ever all-staff meeting last month. From left: Board President Jay Shaver, Missoula/Ravalli Coordinator Kat Jackson, Executive Director Cassie Sheets, and Flathead Coordinator Jeanne Wdowin discussed internal communication system updates in order to better support our volunteers.

## Coaching Update

Our last month of coaching during the '22-'23 school year is upon us! Go out with a volunteer bang by registering for the sessions below:

Hamilton High School (Ravalli)

- [Wednesday, May 3rd](#), Single Draft
  - 2:00-3:30, 9 coaches needed
- [Thursday, May 18th](#), Single Draft
  - 8:30-10:00, 2 coaches needed
  - 10:10-11:40, 4 coaches needed

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

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

[CHECK OUT COACHING CALENDAR](#)



## Missoula & Bitterroot Gives takes place THIS WEEK: May 4-5!

Our biggest annual fundraiser takes place [THIS THURSDAY and FRIDAY!](#) We have a **\$7,000 match** from an anonymous donor, so your donation can make twice the impact.

As always, the funds we raise from Missoula & Bitterroot Gives will go toward all three counties' programming needs. In fact, **our goal is to raise enough funds to cut ALL school contribution costs in half beginning in fall 2023!** Instead of asking schools to contribute from 12-25% of service costs (based on a sliding scale fee), we will be aiming to cut that in half, asking schools to contribute from 6-12% of costs. BUT WE CAN ONLY DO THAT WITH YOUR HELP!

Visit the [WCM giving page profile](#) to donate!

Another fun perk from the giving day host, Missoula Community Foundation: if you donate between 8am-12pm on Friday, May 5, you will automatically be entered in a raffle to win a vacation or "staycation" in Missoula valued at \$400!

[DONATE HERE](#)



## RSVP to Appreciation Picnics!

Come celebrate our most impactful school year yet (3,462 sessions!) and show appreciation for our volunteer coaches! WCM will provide food and drinks.

- **Missoula/Ravalli: Wednesday, May 17, 6-8pm at [Meadowlark Pavilion](#) in Missoula**
- **Flathead: Friday, May 19, 6-8pm, at [City Beach Gazebo 3](#) in Whitefish**

Coaches, teachers, donors, supporters, and family are welcome! Please RSVP to [admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org) by May 12.

## WCM Lending Library

As we get closer to the summer, don't forget about WCM's [lending library!](#)

A fun new feature of our library is book reviews. When anyone borrows our book, they are passionate to send in a short review. Enjoy our Flathead Coordinator [Jeanne's review](#) of the young adult novel *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*.

Our library includes everything from young adult fiction to instructional texts to poetry. Dig in and enjoy!

Email [admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org) to request a book today.

## May 8-12 is Teacher Appreciation Week!

To our 48 teacher partners from this school year: you are the backbone of our public education institution. Thank you for going above and beyond to help students develop their voices and identities inside and outside of your classrooms. Here's to you!

Thank you to Montana Coffee Traders and Big Creek Coffee Roasters for donating gift cards to our teacher partners! Enjoy your caffeinated beverage, teachers. You've more than earned it!

# Thank you, teachers!



# MONTANA COFFEE TRADERS



## Growth Mindset: A Coaches' Blog

As a tribute to Mother's Day, our executive director Cassie Sheets reflects on her first year as a mom and what parenthood has taught her about the importance of community.

### How to Build a Village

The last 13 months have been the most humbling of my life. Since our daughter Dublin arrived in April 2022, I've been more exhausted and discombobulated than I knew was possible. But as parents do, I keep showing up for her and providing as best I can.

I also have a deeper sense of gratitude for my life circumstances than ever before. Despite the steep learning curve of early parenthood, I can offer Dublin a supportive environment for learning and growing. We're lucky to have bought our first home before the current housing crisis. My husband is a school chef who is passionate about feeding her a variety of nutritious meals. Because of my career in education and publishing, she is constantly surrounded by a sea of books which increases her chances for literacy success.

I'm not describing our home life to brag or to hold it up as the singular ideal. We're by no means perfect parents, and we have a tremendous amount of unearned privilege that allows us to support Dublin. I'm mentioning this scenario because when I think about some children's lack of access to food, secure housing, or affordable healthcare, I get overwhelmed. I instead of spiraling for the first time, a supportive learning environment is revolutionary. For my daughter, taking her first step is a journey of faith, courage, and inner drive to grow beyond her current capacity. The same is true for students as they

earn how to engage in the writing and revision process. During these vulnerable moments of evolution, mentorship can build students' self-esteem and encourage them to adopt a growth mindset.

Coaching demonstrates to students that adults other than their teachers and families care about them. We teach young people that no matter their identities or ideologies, they can receive guidance from experienced citizens. It takes a village to raise a child. As I start my motherhood journey, I'm thankful to know that the WCM village will be here for Dublin and for thousands of Montana students every year. After all, we're in this together.

--Cassie Sheets, Executive Director

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**Contact us:**

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