



---

# December 2024 Newsletter

In this newsletter:

Coaching opportunities

Giving Tuesday is TODAY!

New Writing Matters podcast episode: an interview with SpectrUM!

Growth Mindset: Coach to Learn, Learn to Coach



*Above: For the second year in a row, coaches worked with students at Whitefish High School on City of Whitefish growth policy papers.*

---

# Coaching opportunities

Here are our last 2024 coaching sessions. Trained coaches can log in to register through the links, below.

## Missoula

Sentinel High School

11th grade, AP English, Allison

[Wednesday, December 4](#), single draft

8:35-10:05, 1 coach needed

[Thursday, December 5](#), single draft

8:35-10:05, 1 coach needed

10:45-12:15, 1 coach needed

Target Range School

6th, 7th, & 8th grade, English, MLK Youth Contest Poetry or Short Essay, Belcourt

[Tuesday, December 17](#), single draft

7th grade

9:17-10:12, 7 coaches needed

10:14-11:09, 7 coaches needed

11:11-12:06, 8 coaches needed

8th grade

12:40-1:35, 6 coaches needed

1:37-2:32, 6 coaches needed

2:34-3:29, 9 coaches needed

[Wednesday, December 18](#), single draft

6th grade

9:17-10:12, 5 coaches needed

10:14-11:09, 11 coaches needed

11:11-12:06, 10 coaches needed

Not a trained coach yet?

For folks interested in Missoula and Ravalli, contact coordinator Kat Jackson ([kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org)). For individuals in Flathead, email coordinator Jeanne Wdowin ([jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org)).

# Giving Tuesday is TODAY!



GIVING  
TUESDAY

Happy [Giving Tuesday](#), the day that reminds folks about giving back to community during the holiday season!

One of WCM's holiday goals is to increase WCM's monthly donorship, [Friends of WCM](#), which helps to support operating costs (your amazing WCM staff!) throughout the calendar year.

Every person who commits to giving monthly for the next 12 months will be entered in for a drawing to win a coffee-themed quilt, created by Ravalli coach and new board member, Denise Mahrer. [Because Friends of WCM is a new program with only a handful of current donors, you'll have a great chance of winning!](#) Commit to a monthly donation anytime from now through December 31st to be automatically entered into the raffle.











DONATE TODAY



PRESENTS

# WRITING MATTERS: A SCIENCE WRITING SERIES



WITH

**KAT JACKSON**

WCM COORDINATOR

**LUCILLE VANEK**

WCM INTERN & GEOLOGIST

## New Writing Matters podcast episode

WCM's [podcast, Writing Matters](#), is back in its second season with its fourth episode: Cultivating Curiosity: Hands-On Learning with SpectrUM Science Museum!

Host Kat Jackson (Missoula/Ravalli coordinator & development coordinator) and Lucille Vanek (previous intern) are this season's hosts, and they are tackling a fascinating series about writing in science!

Our latest episode is a delightful interview with University of Montana's [SpectrUM Discovery Area](#) Associate Director of Education, Caitlin Ervin. It's a beautiful thing when educational nonprofits come together to celebrate vital missions!

---

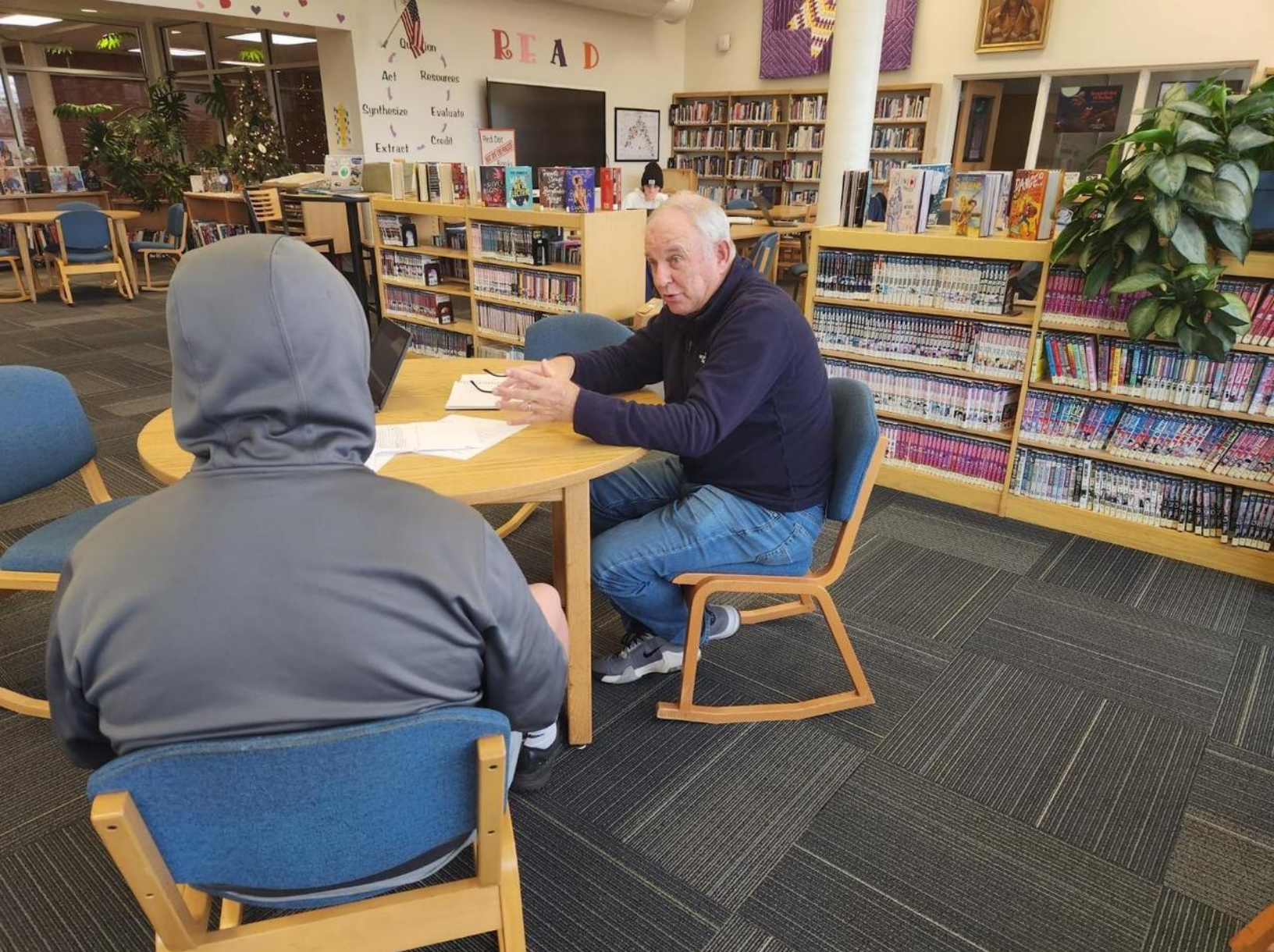


**Corporate sponsor highlight: Montana Coffee Traders**

Thank you to [Montana Coffee Traders](#) to continually supporting WCM's mission!

Enjoy a wonderful cup of coffee in the Flathead at MCT.

---



## ***Growth Mindset: A Coaches' Blog***

*Above: Coach Bill Buseman works with a student at Sentinel High School. Coach Bill is one of WCM's 2024-2025 mentor coaches and began coaching in 2016.*

### **Coach to Learn, Learn to Coach**

Before I started this blog I thought it would be a good idea to look up the word “coach” and understand what exactly a coach is and is expected to do. When I first sit down with a student I usually spend a minute or two and find out about the person that I am about to work with and hopefully share their innermost thoughts with. Sometimes this works, sometimes not, but it is a good ice breaker and creates a comfort zone with the both of us.

This past week, I got to work with a woman from the Middle East. She and her family have been here in the states only seven months. Her assignment was to write an essay on anything that the student is interested in. I had heard talk that most of the students, who were ELL, wrote about soccer. I was looking forward to hearing about a sport that I know little about.

She pulled out her essay and began reading to me. Much to my surprise and glee, she wrote about reading. This young student shared in her paper her love for the printed word in all genres and her paper told me that any place was a good place to read. I could tell she was working on her English and understanding this confusing language and strange diction. She was also determined to read to me and asked for very little help from me. She was strong willed and independent and I admired her determination.



We talked about the paper and how we could make it flow. We discussed putting a little more of herself into the piece. I could tell she loved reading but she had a hard time putting that feeling in words. Our time was running short. I encouraged her to keep reading and to continue to write. The paper had a good feel to it.

She then asked me if I would read some of her other work she had. I agreed and she pulled up a few paragraphs. The words were deep and moving. They were to all of her friends so far away. She missed them dearly and the way she put her feeling on paper was like a poem of hope, despair, longing and love. I could feel her looking at me and when I was done I looked at her and saw tears in her eyes. I hoped she did not see mine.

Two days later, in another school and another assignment, I had the chance to hear essays on places the students loved and why. What great blank canvas from the teacher! My last student of the day had written about a house she had lived in. She wrote a lovely piece but it felt like something was missing from the paper. I asked her about the house and what she loved other than the field and garden she so missed. I looked up and could see tears in her eyes. I was correct.

I share these stories because this is what a writing coach is. We attempt to find the innermost piece of the human and ask them to put a piece of their soul on paper for all to read. That’s a big ask. Share with us what you think, what you feel, and understand that there is no right or wrong—just the words that tell a story, your story. It is a journey of caring and sharing. With the other coaches, the students, and the true hero—the teacher.

This experience had taught me to listen and learn. It has taught me that there is a great and promising future out there—a future I am proud to be just a little part of. A coach—“someone whose job is to teach people to improve at skill...”

—*Bill Buseman*

---





*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 | Misoula, None 59807 US

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

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.