

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Kerri Booth
1-800-222-1222

“Mr. Yuk Keeps Me Safe!”

Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest Winner Recognized

The Washington Poison Center held its second statewide Mr. Yuk Poster Contest for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Maliyah Bennett from Seattle (age 9, 4th grade) was recognized as the contest winner on January 14 at Dunlap Elementary School.

The Washington Poison Center awarded Bennett’s teacher for the second year in a row, Mrs. Donna Amira, with \$500 for her classroom. Bennett received a \$100 savings bond and prize package including fitness bag from 24 Hour Fitness, hair products from Regis Salon, \$50 gift card to Bartell Drugs and many other donated items from stores and Washington Poison Center supporters throughout the Northwest.

Twanda Hill, Executive Director of the Festival Sundiata, gave Maliyah \$50 and informed her that her poster will be displayed under the Black Palette Art Exhibit during the Black History Month festival at the Seattle Center February 16 -18, 2008. The mascot from the Pier 55 Red Robin and the Seattle Fire Department was on hand to congratulate Bennett in front of her peers. The Dunlap Elementary students got to tour the fire engine and take home Mr. Yuk stickers.

“I’m so excited for Maliyah,” said Amira. “She is so special and deserves a special day.” It turns out the day was more special for Bennett and her family than the Poison Center had planned. Bennett’s grandfather, Greg Bennett, was there to support his granddaughter and is a fire fighter for the Seattle Fire Department. “Her family is really enjoying themselves. The fire engine was such a welcomed surprise,” said Amira.

Statewide, 450 students submitted a poster for this year’s Mr. Yuk Poster Contest. The competition increases awareness of poison safety and the Poison Center through a creative and engaging activity for youth. The winning poster will be used as the official Washington State poster for Poison Prevention Week in March 2008 and will be displayed on billboards and posters statewide. Four finalists were selected in addition to the winning poster. The Washington Poison Center is visiting the schools of all five students this January.

XXX

About National Poison Prevention Week

Congress established National Poison Prevention Week more than forty years ago to raise awareness of unintentional poisonings. Over one million poisonings involving children are reported each year. Many of these poisonings could have been prevented. Poison centers organize events during this special week to educate parents and others about which household products are poisonous, how to prevent poisonings from occurring and what to do if a poisoning occurs.

About the Washington Poison Center

The Washington Poison Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, prevents harm from poisonings by being the primary resource for poison treatment, education and prevention. Reachable 24/7, the national poison hotline: 1-800-222-1222 will connect you to specially-trained nurses, pharmacists and poison specialists. Poison help is always free and confidential. Services are available for people with hearing problems and for non-English speakers.

State-level poster contest conducted by the:

Sponsored in part by:

