

**For Immediate Release**

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## **“Mr. Yuk Keeps Me Safe!”**

Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest Finalist Recognized

The Washington Poison Center held its second state-wide Mr. Yuk Poster Contest for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Washington State. Alia Hidayat from Vancouver (age 9, 4<sup>th</sup> grade) was recognized as a finalist on January 17, 2008 at Illahee Elementary School.

The Washington Poison Center awarded Hidayat’s teacher, Mrs. Carol Keffeler, with \$200 for her classroom. Hidayat received a \$50 savings bond and prize package including mp3 player from Bartell Drugs, watches from Sketchers, hair products from Trade Secret and many other donated items from stores and Washington Poison Center supporters throughout the Northwest.

Boomer, the mascot for the Portland Beavers, was on hand to congratulate Hidayat in front of her peers. The students in Hidayat’s classroom got to take home a baseball card personally autographed by Boomer as well as Mr. Yuk pencils and magnets. All Illahee elementary students were given Mr. Yuk stickers.

“I always liked to draw and wanted to show what I learned (about poison safety) through my art,” said Hidayat when interviewed by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students putting together a story for their in-school news broadcast, the Raven News. “Poison safety education is so important,” said Keffeler. Keffeler sent all her students home with a letter explaining the poster contest and why it is important to know the Poison Center phone number..

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.

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### **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:*

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The Washington Poison Center is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

