

**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 statewide Mr. Yuk Poster Contest for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Lizzie George from Gig Harbor (age 11, 5<sup>th</sup> grade) was recognized as a finalist on January 15, 2008 at Harbor Heights Elementary School.

The Washington Poison Center awarded George’s teacher, Terry McClelland, with \$200 for his classroom. George 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.

Rhubarb, the mascot with the Tacoma Rainiers, was on hand to congratulate George in front of her peers. The Gig Harbor Fire Department congratulated George and gave a tour of their ambulance. All the Harbor Heights students got to take home a Rhubarb baseball card from the Tacoma Rainiers as well as Mr. Yuk stickers.

“We have been encouraging our students to participate in contests,” said McClelland. “We can’t wait to do it again next year.”

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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