

**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. Madeline Dickson from Spokane (age 10, 5<sup>th</sup> grade) was recognized as a finalist on January 24, 2008 at the Libby Center - Odyssey School.

The Washington Poison Center awarded Dickson’s teacher, Mrs. Kristy Masteller, with \$200 for her classroom. Dickson 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.

Spike, the Gonzaga University mascot, was on hand to congratulate Dickson in front of her peers. All the students were surprised by the visit from Spike. All the Libby Center Odyssey students got to take home Mr. Yuk stickers, pencils and magnets.

“I’m so excited Mr. Yuk and Spike came to my school today,” said Dickson. “I taught my little cousin about Mr. Yuk to keep him safe from poisons in his home.”

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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