



Dragon News - The last month has been busy with school visits in Kirkland, WA and an artist-in-residence Arts Explosion event. Super Simple Sumi animals are cropping up everywhere! And soon the Pacific Northwest dragons are heading to Eastern Europe to check out their European ancestry..... [Keep up with their adventures on Facebook!](#)

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Northwest Beaches: Hit the Beach at Low Tide!

The summer months around Puget Sound are full of wonderful days at the beach. And lucky for us, these months are also the ones that have great low tides during the daytime! Extra low tides are happening during the middle and end of each summer month, e.g. June 26-27 and July 10-15. Check out a [local tide table](#). Better yet, go to the [Seattle Aquarium Beach Naturalist program](#) - they list all the Puget Sound beaches and low tide times at which a naturalist will be present during the summer. They also have a good field guide.

A fun thing to do at the beach when you get there is to be a "Belly Biologist"! Rocky shores and sandy beaches often have lots of tide pools - a great place for "belly biology". Get down on your belly, put your face close to the tide pool and watch the action unfold!



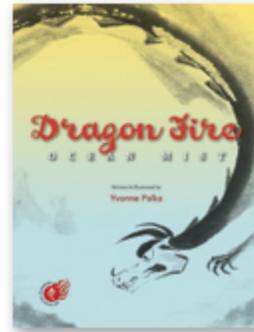
Yvonne Palka

Yvonne is the award-winning sumi-e artist who wrote and illustrated *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist*. A retired college professor, grandmother, biologist and naturalist, she is passionate about introducing children and adults to the wonders of the natural world.

[VISIT YVONNE'S BLOG](#)

And remember good beach etiquette - if you turn over a rock to observe who is living there, replace it in its original position so the animals are unharmed and their homes undisturbed.

***"I read your book two times already! It is sooooo good. I want to go to Shi Shi Beach to look for the Shi Shi dragons. I also liked the sand castle part - it is really funny."
Jenna K., age 8, Kirkland, WA***



[Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#)

Written & Illustrated by
Yvonne Palka

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Kids exploring life at the beach - on their way to becoming "Belly Biologists".

Dragons: Dragons Head to Europe

This month the Pacific Northwest dragons are going to Eastern Europe to check out their European ancestors. European dragons are known for their evil ways, such as stealing livestock and hoarding jewels and princesses in their caves.

One story that continues to this day and fuels a tourist attraction in Krakow, Poland, is about the Wawel Dragon (*Smok Wawelski* in Polish). The story goes that the evil dragon was wreaking havoc, devouring livestock and people (especially tasty young girls). In desperation, the king offered his daughter's hand in marriage to anyone who could defeat the dragon (sound familiar?). All the brave warriors failed. Finally a poor cobbler's apprentice accepted the challenge. He stuffed a sheepskin with sulphur and set it outside the dragon's cave. The dragon eagerly devoured it and soon became incredibly thirsty (sulphur burns). He went to the river and drank and drank, drinking up half the river, and finally exploded! The cobbler married the king's daughter.

Today the Krakow castle and the Wawel Cathedral stand on the hill on top of the slain dragon's lair and a bronze sculpture of the Wawel dragon stands in front of the cave. It noisily breathes fire every few minutes (thanks to a gas nozzle in its mouth)!

Asian Art: Super Simple Sumi Sea Star

So many super simple sumi animals can be made by using a broad gray stroke for the body shape and then adding details with a fine gray or black brush or



The bronze sculpture of the Wawel dragon belching fire in Krakow, Poland

marker pen. The body of the sea star (aka starfish) is simple to make. Look at a sea star on the beach and notice where its 5 arms are. Then take your gray brush and make 5 broad strokes for the arms. If you know how to load the brush with gray and black ink you can make the arms with a loaded brush to give some rounded depth to them as I did in the picture to the right. Add some accent lines and you have a dancing sea star!



Super Simple Sumi Sea Star dancing on the beach.



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