



It's back to school time for the dragons! After a summer of exploring in Europe and Lake Superior, the dragons are looking for kids and adults who would like to have a visit - especially in schools! And speaking of schools, the latest recipient of a contribution from the sales of [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#) is the [Wilderness Awareness School](#) - a leader in nature based education.

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Northwest Beaches: Visit the Seattle Aquarium!

Several weeks ago we explored the [Seattle Aquarium](#) - a wonderful place to experience the magic of our Northwest waters and beaches. One of the newer exhibits is the [Window on Washington Waters \(WOWW\)](#). With a little research we found that this exhibit represents a popular dive spot called Mushroom Rock west of Neah Bay and just around the corner from Shi Shi Beach! So if you want to get up close and personal with the habitat and creatures of the dragon caves go visit the WOWW at the Aquarium! The diver feeding the animals can chat with you and answer your questions from inside the tank! Here's the [show schedule](#).

And while you're there, visit the other exhibits - especially the Life on the Edge touch tanks. Stroke the starfish and pet the anemones! One tank is for animals from the outer coast (think tide pools at Shi Shi beach) and the other is for animals in the inland sea (think Puget Sound). See if you can find out what the similarities and differences are. And don't forget the Giant Pacific octopus and the sea otters (two of our faves.....).



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](#)

"Yvonne did a fabulous job! She did an excellent job at balancing out her presentation using visual prompts, storytelling techniques and then demonstrating through art how she was able to create her wonderful characters. The students were totally engrossed in Yvonne's presentation. They are still talking about the presentation a week later! We can't wait to have her return to our school!"

Mary Joseph, Librarian, Juanita Elementary School, Kirkland, WA



Dragon Fire Ocean Mist

Written & Illustrated
by
Yvonne Palka

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Dragons: Dragon Caves in Lake Superior

In August the dragons went looking, once again, for their Lake Superior cousins. This time we went by kayak to the sea caves in the red sandstone cliffs of Mawikwe Beach near Bayfield, Wisconsin - part of the [Apostle Islands National Lakeshore](#). Our kayak was the perfect way to explore - we disappeared into huge cracks in the cliffs, poked our way through keyholes and listened to the booming sounds of the waves as they hit the back walls of the big caves.

We found LOTS of caves but no dragons (sigh....). Perhaps they went to the Arctic for the summer and they'll be back again this winter when the ice forms. In the meantime, their homes certainly are magical! Check out some pictures on [our Facebook page](#).

Asian Art: Super Simple Sumi Mouse

It's September and the mice are thinking about cozy nests for the winter - maybe even in your house! Here's a simple way to paint a mouse. Make one gray blob for the head and then a curved fat gray stroke for the body. Wait until it dries (it takes patience....). When the gray strokes are dry take a fine brush or marker and add the ears, the nose eyes, and whiskers, and, of course, the tail.



Seattle Aquarium diver feeding a wolf eel at the WOWW.



Dragon caves on Lake Superior





Super Simple Sumi Mouse



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