

Firebrand!

from Yvonne Palka, author of *Dragon Fire Ocean Mist*



Hello from the dragons! We're now back in the Pacific Northwest. The dragons said farewell to their Lake Superior ice dragon cousins for now - perhaps to visit again next winter. Recent highlights have been wonderful school visits in Minnesota and a Young Author's Conference in Kirkland, WA last weekend.

[Northwest Beaches: Welcome the Gray Whales!](#)

[Dragons: Dragons on Whidbey Island!](#)

[Asian Art: Dragon Paintings Become Wearable Art](#)

Northwest Beaches: Welcome the Gray Whales - April 24, 2010!

Did you know that you can see [migrating Pacific Gray Whales](#) right off shore in downtown Langley on Whidbey Island? Every year 40-50 gray whales take a detour in their northward spring migration from Baja California to the Bering Sea to spend March and April feeding on ghost shrimp that live in the muddy sandy beaches of Saratoga Passage on the northern side of Whidbey Island. Gray whales are baleen whales that filter tons of muddy sandy sea water through the baleen in their mouths, collecting ghost shrimp and plankton on the baleen. Amazing way for a 20-40 ton whale to eat!

When the whales are feeding in Saratoga Passage they lie on the bottom on one side and turn in a big circle. This stirs up the sand and the shrimp that they take into their mouths. At low tide you can see the huge feeding pits they leave behind on the beach with seagulls, eagles and other birds foraging on the leftovers. And if you do see a whale (they're already here this year) you can ring the whale bell down by the beach to let everyone know that the whales are here!



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](#)

[Welcome the whales on April 24th!](#) The Welcome the Whales Day sponsored by the [Orca Network](#) and the [Langley Chamber of Commerce](#) includes lots of fun activities, including a Parade of the Species. [Read more....](#)

*"You re a very good descriptive writer. My favorite character is Niji, because he is cute, funny, adorable and just plain nice. PLEASE write another story. I'm even spending my Christmas money on your book, Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist."
Izzy A, age 7, Minneapolis, MN*



Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist
Written & Illustrated by
Yvonne Palka

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Dragons: Dragons on Whidbey Island!

The big dragon news this month is that I won **FIRST PRIZE** in the Whidbey Island T-shirt contest sponsored by [Eddy's on Whidbey Island!](#) **YAHOO!!!!!!** My design is a sumi painting of Whidbey in the shape of a dragon. The dragon's mouth is at Clinton where the ferry from Mukilteo lands. So when you come to Whidbey you are entering a dragon island through the dragon's mouth and coming to a land that fosters creativity and connection with nature and spirit.



Gray whale spy hopping off shore!

Native people in many parts of the world find mythic beings in the land forms that they inhabit. The island of Molokai, Hawaii, is also said to be in the shape of a dragon. Mo'o means lizard (small dragon). Islands are places of magic and spirit indeed!



Come to Whidbey this spring, see the gray whales and experience the magic!

The dragon of Whidbey Island!
First prize in a T-shirt contest at [Eddy's!](#)

Asian Art: Dragon Paintings Become Wearable Art

Nothing like a T-shirt to advertise your art! [Eddy's on Whidbey Island - Where Art Meets Apparel](#) - has put the dragon battle scene from [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#) on beautiful organic cotton T-shirts. And likewise the Dragon of Whidbey Island. T-shirts are available in a variety of colors, styles and sizes. Check out their [website](#).



And if you're looking for other T-shirts with dragon art from [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#) as well as note cards, calendars, mugs, buttons and more - check out the [Dragonfires Cafe Press store.](#)

Dragon battle scene in wearable form at [Eddy's](#)



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