

Dear School Nurse:

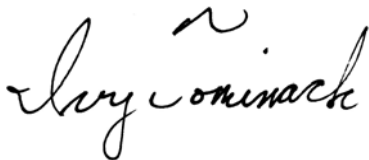
All across the nation Americans will observe Poison Prevention Week by seeking to raise awareness among children of one of the nation's deadliest—but most easily preventable—safety hazards. The campaign has its roots in Missouri, having been created by Cape Girardeau pharmacist Homer A. George in 1958, as a way to make children more aware of the dangers of poisons. This year Poison Prevention Week is March 18-24th.

We hope you'll help us with this continuing effort by encouraging your students to take part in the 18th annual Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest. The contest is open to students in Kindergarten through third grade. Attached are details of the contest, along with a lesson plan, which offers an educational experience that is both effective and engaging. **If your school decides to participate in the contest, we will provide free Mr. Yuk stickers and Poison Help magnets for your students. Just fill out the accompanying order form and fax it back to the poison center at (314) 612-5740.**

The contest is being expanded to include one winner from each participating grade. Each winner will receive an ice-cream party for his or her class. As in past years, one overall grand prize winner will be selected. The winning poster and others will be on display at the St. Louis Science Center during Poison Prevention Week. **The student with the grand prize winning entry will be treated to a school pizza party for his or her class, along with one-year memberships to both the St. Louis Science Center and The Magic House St. Louis Children's Museum. Additionally, the winner will receive an award certificate and commemorative "Mr. Yuk" t-shirt from the Poison Center.**

Please forward these materials to the appropriate teachers. If you have any further questions about the contest in particular or poison-prevention education in general, please contact Ivy Tominack, Public Education Coordinator, at 314/612-5719. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to seeing your students' efforts and to raising poison awareness throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ivy Tominack". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Ivy Tominack, Public Education Coordinator
Missouri Regional Poison Center