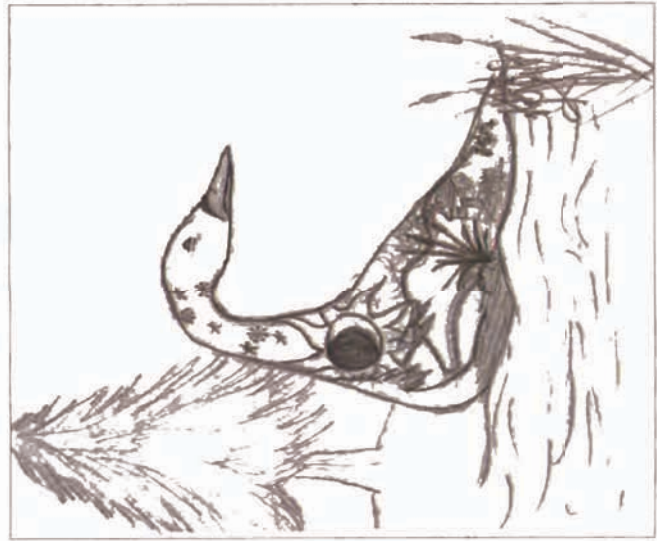


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NATALEY GRIFFIN

## Kids go with the flow of honoring rivers

An anthology marks 10 years of students' writing and artwork about riverside life

**BY BEN PITTMAN-POLLETTA**  
THE OREGONIAN

Kids these days: They study rivers and watersheds, and next thing you know, their poems and drawings are published in an anthology alongside the work of famous authors like Ursula K. Le Guin.

"Honoring Our Rivers," a student anthology of writing, art and essays about riverside life, celebrates its 10th anniversary at Powell's City of Books on Sunday, with readings from contributors young and old.

The brainchild of local entrepreneur and community activist John Miller, "Honoring Our Riv-

ers" aims to increase students' awareness of their watershed environments. The program teaches students about their local river and then asks them to submit literature and art about their relationship to it. Educators and writers evaluate and edit submissions to produce each year's anthology.

The anthology is put together and published by Miller's company, Wildwood/Mahonia. Financial support comes from a number of other corporate and nonprofit sponsors, including Portland General Electric and the Willamette Partnership. Published authors donate excerpts of their work to the anthology,

See some more examples of the poetry and art featured in "Honoring Our Rivers." **Page E3**

which is given to students and schools.

Gabriel Colasurdo, a second-grader, was inspired to write a poem about the Willamette by Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree." Science is his favorite subject in school, but "I like doing a lot of stuff," he says. "Sports, math."

Maya Rait, an eighth-grader, wants to be a photojournalist when she grows up. This works out just fine, since her younger

sister wants to be an actress. "I photograph her for head shots and stuff. Although she gets overwhelmed because I take like a million pictures of her."

Third-grader Jacob Haller has illustrations in two "Honoring Our River" anthologies. "We go across the ferry a lot, a lot, a lot, a lot," he says. Why is his raindrop looking for an interesting fly? "I really don't know."

Get an earful of the next generation's musings on the Willamette River at Powell's, 1005 W. Burnside St., from 4-5 p.m. Sunday.

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MAYA RAIT



JACOB HALLER

### Salmon Jump Fish Ladder

*Josiah Rubie, Grade 3  
Adams Elementary, Eugene*

Salmon jump ladder.  
Little salmon have yolk sacs.  
Hide in dark water.

### The Way The World Started

*Anushka Nair, Grade 3  
Oak Creek Elementary, Lake Oswego*

CRASH! A meteor strikes  
splashing everything. It floats in  
you. Not sinking. Out comes  
fish. Lots of fish. Who are people  
in disguise. Now those little  
people swim in your waters. And  
the meteor is a log. Is that how  
the world started?

### The River

*Gabriel Colasurdo, Grade 2  
Bridlemile Elementary School, Portland*

I am the river.  
I have travelled many miles.  
I have watched trees grow.  
I have watched fish come back every summer.  
I have watched young birds learn how to fly.  
I have watched the eagles soar into the sky.  
I have felt people play in me.  
I have felt boats go past me.  
I have seen the snow fall.  
I have felt people ice skate on me.  
I am the river.