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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Palmer Middle School Student Represents Cobb County in Essay Contest**

Kirby Carriman, a student at Palmer Middle School, is the Cobb County winner in the sixth annual water conservation and water quality essay contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (The Water District). The Water District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive watershed, wastewater and water supply and water conservation plans to be implemented by local governments in the 16-county metro Atlanta region. The Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely are public education campaigns designed to educate and promote behavior changes in water conservation and water quality.

Kirby Carriman will be presented with his award at Palmer Middle School on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. Tim Lee, Cobb County Commissioner, will present Kirby with the County Award. Commissioner Lee said, "As a policy maker in Cobb County it is imperative that I work to preserve and conserve Georgia's water resources. Cobb County Board of Commissioners has led the way in water conservation through several programs supported by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Some of the programs include, allowing only a 15 day water exemption to new landscape projects, toilet rebate program and starting several public education campaigns such as "Pick 10" and "Give Them an Inch. . . Grow a Yard". Carriman's essay outlined simple ways Cobb County residents can conserve water in their homes. In his essay he recommends, "When taking a shower turn the water off while you lather. When cooking and washing dishes only run water when necessary and when washing clothes, only wash when you have a full load."

The two campaigns, Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely, teamed up to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and water conservation efforts in Georgia. Students researched and shared their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution are important for the future of their rivers, lakes and streams. The main goal of this program is to encourage students to create inventive solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro North Georgia.

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The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Each participating school submitted its winning essay for the county competition, and one overall District Winner was selected among the county winners. County winners receive a \$25 check along with a Clean Water Campaign / Water Use It Wisely certificate presented by an elected official from that county.

To view the names of the winners, and read the Water District's winning essay please visit, the Clean Water Campaign website at [www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com).

**About the Campaigns**

The **Clean Water Campaign** ([www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)) is a cooperative, multi-agency education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the 16-county District.

**Water- Use It Wisely** ([www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)) is a program that educates consumers about simple water conservation measures. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

**Palmer Middle School** is located at 690 North Booth Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144. For more information about the school or student, please call 770-591-5020.

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