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## **Madras Middle School Student Represents Coweta County in Essay Contest**

Dustin Dye, a seventh grade student at Madras Middle School, is the Coweta County winner in the sixth annual water conservation and water quality essay contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Water District). The Water District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive watershed, wastewater and water supply and 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.

Dye was presented with an award at Madras Middle School on Thursday, December 13, 2007. Tim Higgins, Coweta County Commissioner Chairman, presented Dustin Dye with the County Award. Chairman Higgins said, "Coweta County is one of the 61 counties included in the history making drought. Coweta County has a restriction on all outdoor watering, but in order to make a greater difference in the drought Coweta must work together as a community to implement simple behavior changes in their every day life to make a bigger impact on conserving water."

In Dye's essay he gives examples of simple things we can do in our everyday life to make a difference, he says, "I believe the best ways to educate people about water conservation is to start with kids. Kids influence their parents to do the right things, plus they are the next generation. If kids think about things like turning off the water when they brush their teeth, and reminding parents not to do laundry when you don't have a full load of clothes and not to use the dishwasher until it's completely full."

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 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 river, 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 winner was selected from 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 the winning essays, visit the Clean Water Campaign's Web site ([www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)) and click on the essay contest link.

**About the Campaigns**

The **Clean Water Campaign** ([www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)) is a cooperative, multi-agency education 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 measure. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

**Madras Middle School** is located at 240 Edgeworth Road, Newnan, GA 30063. For more information about the school or student, please call 770-254-2744.

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