



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Middle School Student Represents Walton County in Water Essay Contest

Dene Phillips, an eighth grade student at Youth Middle School, is the Walton County winner in the seventh annual water conservation and water quality essay contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District). The Metro 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 15-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.

Dene will be presented with the County Award on Monday, December 15, 2008 at Youth Middle School by Walton County Commission Chairman Kevin Little. Chairman Little said, "I am pleased to have a student at Youth Middle School so passionate about conserving and preserving Georgia's water resources". Dene's essay asks everyone to conserve water by taking shorter showers and not letting the water run while washing dishes. He also states in his essay, we must preserve the water quality by properly disposing of toxic chemicals and not littering.

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 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.

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. The District Winner will receive a \$100 check and County Winners receive a \$25 check along with a certificate presented by a county

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representative.

To view the names of the winners, and read the winning essays please visit, the Clean Water Campaign website at www.cleanwatercampaign.com.

About the Campaigns

*The **Clean Water Campaign** (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 15-county District.*

***Water- Use It Wisely** (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.*

***Youth Middle School** is located at 1804 Highway 81 South, Loganville, Georgia 30052. For more information about the school or student, please call 770.466.6849.*

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