



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Charlene Njoroge 404.463.3259 or
Grace Trimble 404.463.3192

Social Circle Middle School Student Represents Walton County in Essay Contest

Merry Beth Morgan, a student at Social Circle Middle School, is the Walton 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 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.

Merry Beth Morgan will be presented with her award at Social Circle Middle School on Thursday, January 24, 2007. Kevin Little, Chairman of Walton County Board of Commissioners will present Merry Beth Morgan with the County Award. Chairman Little said, "Walton County recognizes the importance of conserving water and is dedicated to educating the resident of Walton County about the different ways to conserve." Morgan's essay outlines a few ways Walton County can contribute to preserving our water supply. In her essay she says, "Conserving water saves money. You can conserve water by turning the water off while you brush your teeth. Collect water it when it rains, boil it and then use it for everyday needs."

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.

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

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one overall 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.

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 16-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.

Social Circle Middle School is located at 154 Alcova Drive, Social Circle, GA 30025. For more information about the school or student, please call 770-464-1932.

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