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Cobb County Student Wins Water Essay Contest

Alexis Chun, a student at East Cobb Middle School, is the Cobb county winner in the annual Clean Water Campaign/waterSmart Essay Contest. Chun, an 8th grader in Mrs. Bonstein's class, received a visit from Commission Chairman Sam Olens and District Two Commissioner **Joe L. Thompson** as well as guests from the Cobb County Water System, the Clean Water Campaign and waterSmart.

In honoring Chun with her achievements, Cobb County Chairman Sam Olens said, "Protecting the quality of our rivers, lakes and streams and conserving water are both valuable in preserving what we have today and ensuring that we have a clean adequate supply in the future."

The annual essay contest is held 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 is important for the future of their river, lakes and streams. The main goal of the essay contest was to encourage students to create solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro Atlanta.

"Lately, people are so caught up in their own issues that we do not realize how much our environment is changing, and how much we need to protect it" Chun said in her winning essay. "Our lives would be very uncomfortable with little water, or with polluted water. Even though our lives would be hard to adjust to, think about the generations ahead."

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. Winners were selected in each county and an overall winner was selected from the county winners. County winners were awarded a Clean Water Campaign / waterSmart certificate given by their respective elected official at an award presentation. To view the essays go to the Campaign's website (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) and click on the essay contest link.

About waterSmart

The **waterSmart** program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority to educate metro area residents about "state of the science" methods for conserving water while maintaining beautiful lawns and landscapes. waterSmart tips were developed in conjunction with the Georgia Water Wise Council and the Cobb County Extension Service.

About the Clean Water Campaign

The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by 20 local governments and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the Atlanta region.

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