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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Little River Elementary School Student Represents Cherokee County in Water Essay Contest**

Jessica Mandel, a sixth grade student at Little River Elementary School, is the Cherokee 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 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.

Mandel will be presented with the County Award at Little River Elementary School on Monday, November 17, 2008. Cherokee County Commissioner, Jim Hubbard will present Jessica with the County Award. Commissioner Hubbard said, "Cherokee County knows that education is the key when conserving and preserving our water resources. Cherokee County is very active in communities with programs such as workshops, festivals and stenciling program." In Jessica's essay, she gives examples of how everyone can do simple things to conserve water, in her essay she says, "There are some things that people can do which will help both the conservation and anti-pollution efforts. Do not wash your car with the water hose; instead take it to a car wash that uses recycled water. This will eliminate the chemicals from entering the water supply and conserve water as well and use grey water to water house plants."

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.

The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb,

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

To view the names of the winners, 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 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.

**Little River Elementary School** is located at 3170 Trickum Road, Woodstock, GA 30188. For more information about the school or student, please call 770-926-7566.

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