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Henderson Middle School Student Wins Regional Essay Contest

Mariah Brown, a seventh grade student at Henderson Middle School, is the DeKalb County and overall District 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.

Mariah Brown will be presented with her award at Henderson Middle School on Wednesday, October 29, 2008. Elaine Boyer, DeKalb County Commissioner, will present Mariah with the County Award. Commissioner Boyer said, "DeKalb County is dedicated to keeping the water resources in Georgia and DeKalb County free of pollution. DeKalb County has created several community programs such as storm drain marking campaigns, community workshops and events geared towards promoting a clean DeKalb County." Brown's essay outlines simple ways she can protect her community's water resources through simple behavior changes. In her essay Brown says, "Pick up after your pet waste, take your car to a professional car wash instead of doing it in your driveway, avoid using fertilizer and clean your driveway and other surface by sweeping rather than using a hose and water."

The two campaigns, Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely, teamed up to encourage children and their 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

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

To view the names of the winners, and read their 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.

Henderson Middle School is located at 2830 Henderson Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30341. For more information about the school or student, please call 678-874-2902.

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