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Hopewell Middle School Student Represents Fulton County in Water Essay Contest

Abhinaya Uthayakumar, an eighth grade student at Hopewell Middle School, the Fulton 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.

Abhinaya Uthayakumar will be presented with her award at Hopewell Middle School on Monday, November 10, 2008. Fulton County Commissioner Lynne Riley will present Abhinaya with her County Award. Commissioner Riley said "Educating the public about the importance of conserving and protecting Georgia's precious water resources is the first step. Fulton County teams up with organizations such as Keep Fulton Beautiful, Adopt-A-Stream and Rivers Alive to educate the public about the same messages Abhinaya discussed in her essay." In Uthayakumar's essay she outlined some things that we can all do to reduce water usage in Fulton County." In her essay she said, "At home we can water lawns only when needed, fix leaking faucets and take two and three minute showers."

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, 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 \$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 essays, visit the Clean Water Campaign's 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.

Hopewell Middle School is located at 13060 Cogburn Road, Milton, GA 30004. For more information about the school or student, please call 678-297-3240.

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