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DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts Student Wins for County in Essay Contest

DeJah N.M. Ault from DeKalb Elementary School of the Arts is the DeKalb County winner in the fourth annual water conservation and preservation essay contest, sponsored by the Clean Water Campaign and the Water Use It Wisely Campaign. Ault, a 6th grader, received a \$25 cash prize. Ault was presented with her award on Monday, November 21 by Super District Six Commissioner Kathie Gannon.

The two organizations, 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.

Commissioner Gannon shared with students that, "one of the biggest jobs government has is managing water resources wisely, those of us who serve in government cannot do the job alone. Clean water is your job too." She added that, "What you do at home and at school makes a difference in whether our streams are clean or polluted." She said, "You are all the future of DeKalb County, with your continued help, we will have clean rivers, lakes and streams."

In Ault's essay, she said, "not being responsible with our water supply could cause the world to crumble." She also says, "Mankind cannot survive without water. Taking the earth's water supply for granted is a huge mistake. Make no mistake; water pollution can and will destroy the environment."

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. More than 1,000 middle school students from throughout the district participated. Each participating school submitted its winning essay for the county competition, and one overall winner was selected from among the county winners. County winners receive 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 the winning essays, visit the Clean Water Campaign's Web site (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) and click on the essay contest link.

About the Clean Water Campaign

The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public 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 Atlanta region.

Water- Use It Wisely (www.wateruseitwisely.com) is a program that educates consumers about specific and simple water conservation measures they can use everyday to help. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District in partnership with the Georgia Pollution Prevention Assistance Division.