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CONTACT: Kelley O'Brien 404.463.3259 or
Grace Trimble 404.463.3192

Duluth Middle Student Represents Essay Contest

Harrison Falk, a student at Duluth Middle School, is the Gwinnett 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. Falk, an 8th grader, received a \$25 cash prize. Falk was presented with an award at Duluth Middle School on Friday, November 4, 2005.

Scott Haggard, Special Assistant to Gwinnett County Chairman Charles Bannister, presented Falk with the County Award. Haggard said, "Water is the lifeblood of our communities. All of us need it to survive. Our communities need it to prosper." He added, "While 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."

Representatives from the Clean Water Campaign/Water Use It Wisely and Gwinnett Department of Public Utilities shared the importance of protecting water resources. Katherine Lewis, Stormwater Engineer for the County, said, "Educating students is important at your age." She added, "We work with the Clean Water Campaign educating students and adults across the county to prevent water pollution."

The two Campaigns 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.

In his essay, Falk says, "The most valuable natural resource on Earth is not gold, platinum, or oil. It is water, for the very reason that while we can live without gold, platinum, and oil, we cannot live without water." He adds, "It is vital to our survival-to every living things survival-and, although you might not think about it when you turn on the sink or shower, the world's water supply is running out."

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.

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About the Campaigns

The **Clean Water Campaign** (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) is a cooperative, multi-agency education and public 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 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.

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