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Gwinnett County Student Wins Water Essay Contest

Matt Dumler, a student at Shiloh Middle School, is the Gwinnett county winner in the annual water conservation and preservation essay contest, sponsored by the Clean Water Campaign and the waterSmart program. Dumler, a 6th grader in Ms. Callin's class, will receive an award and poster by Commission Chairman F. Wayne Hill on Tuesday, November 30 at 9:30 AM.

The two organizations 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 is important for the future of their river, lakes and streams. The main goal of this program was to encourage students to create solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro Atlanta.

"Tell all you friends what you are doing, why it is important, and how easy it is to make a real difference," Dumler said in his winning essay aimed to encourage people to conserve water. "Challenge them to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. We have developed a water problem little by little, and little by little, we can develop a solution."

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. Student winners in each county were awarded a Clean Water Campaign / waterSmart certificate. All award winners will receive a visit by an elected official at an award presentation.

About waterSmart

The **waterSmart** program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority to educate metro area residents about "state of the science" methods for conserving water while maintaining beautiful lawns and landscapes. waterSmart tips were developed in conjunction with the Georgia Water Wise Council and the Cobb County Extension Service.

About the Clean Water Campaign

The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by 20 local governments and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the Atlanta region.

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