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**Drop Savers Water Conservation Contest Winners (NB)**

To reach future generations and spread the water conservation message, the annual Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (FSAWWA) Drop Savers Poster Contest is sponsored by GRU to help teach local youth about the importance of conserving our most valuable resource - water. Amazed by the creativity displayed by the participating students, the audience at the Drinking Water Taste Test had a difficult time choosing this year's winners.

First, second and third place winners were selected from each class division:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:**

- Division 1: Elena Westling (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) - Ms. Whitehead's class, Littlewood Elementary
- Division 2: Dylan Fitzpatrick (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) - Ms. Teague's class, JJ Finley Elementary
- Division 3: Chiarra Tumminia (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)- Ms. Merritt's class, JJ Finley Elementary
- Division 4: Anthony Madorsky (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Dr. Winant's class, Howard Bishop Middle School
- Division 5: Victoria Collins (12<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Ms. Paxson's class, Gainesville High School

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:**

- Division 1: Sumari Botes (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) - Ms. Whitehead's class, Littlewood Elementary
- Division 2: Zoe Sumerlin (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) - Ms. Teague's class, JJ Finley Elementary
- Division 3: Alvaro Munoz-González (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Ms. Merritt's class, JJ Finley Elementary
- Division 4: Bea C. (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Ms. Wheeler's class, Westwood Middle School
- Division 5: Mary Beth Taylor (12<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Ms. Paxson's class, Gainesville High School

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**

- Division 1: Aiden Ostrov (Kindergarten) - Ms. Whitehead's class, Littlewood Elementary
- Division 2: Amara Hochman (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) - Ms. Teague's class, JJ Finley Elementary
- Division 3: Alison Lind (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Ms. Meyers's class, Meadowbrook Elementary
- Division 4: Eden Ivines (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Ms. Wheeler's class, Westwood Middle School
- Division 5: Sarina Steffen (11<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Ms. Paxson's class, Gainesville High School

From those winners, the five first place posters were entered into the state-wide FSAWWA competition. Three won at the state level: Dylan placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Anthony placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Victoria placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and they will be receiving Amazon gift cards from FSAWWA.

In support and recognition of the winning poster contributors, GRU and FSAWWA is providing parties to the winning classes and recognizing the teachers involved in helping educate the students in the value of water conservation.

The fiscal impact is less than \$1,000. The funds were budgeted in the Water & Wastewater Systems Operations & Maintenance Budget as part of the GRU water conservation education efforts, which are required as part of our consumptive use permit.

The City Commission recognize local student winners from the Drop Savers Water Conservation Poster Contest.