

PUBLIC WORKS WEEK:

CLARK COUNTY STUDENTS HELP SPREAD CLEAN WATER MESSAGE

Over 1600 Clark County students recently showed how much they care about protecting local streams and helped educate their community through their participation in Clark County's annual Children's Clean Water Billboard Art contest.


The contest, sponsored by Clark County Public Works' Clean Water Program, invited students in kindergarten through grade 12 to design a billboard to teach people about reducing pollution, keeping our water clean, and protecting water resources. Students were encouraged to creatively illustrate themes such as preventing stormwater contamination from oil, pet waste, and soaps; natural gardening; and protecting the environment from toxic chemicals.

Four posters were selected from 1603 entries to be displayed on outdoor advertising billboards throughout the county during May, June, and September 2007. In addition, 200 of the remaining posters were publicly displayed in Clark County's Public Service Center lobby during Public Works Week in May 2007.

Pete Capell, Clark County public works director, served as master of ceremonies at the awards recognition event May 21 and congratulated each winner. "It is wonderful to see so

many students who really care about protecting the environment and they play an important role in helping educate others about how easily our surface and drinking water can be contaminated."

School-based outreach and education can be a challenge as teachers must be selective in choosing activities and curricula that meet state learning requirements. Cindy Stienbarger, education and outreach coordinator for the Clean Water Program believes the contest's success is partially because it is an activity that can be used across the curriculum by teachers, from science, to art, to the humanities. "We are very pleased with the response from students and teachers. This is the fourth year for this program and we had over a 60 percent increase in participation from 2006 alone," said Stienbarger. "We hope this was not only educational but also a fun activity for students."

Forty-four schools, including four private schools, from eight school districts participated in the contest. Judging criteria included clarity of message as a billboard, interest and appeal, and potential readability by passing motorists. More information is available on Clark County's website at www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources/education/kids. 

Billboard winners

- **Madison Gray**, 1st grade, Hockinson Heights Primary School. Teacher: Mr. Palm. "Clean Water Makes Fish Very Happy"
- **Genevieve Cammer**, 4th grade, Mill Plain Elementary School. Teacher: Mrs. Grote. "Gardens Grow Best Naturally"
- **Shannon McCafferty**, 7th grade, Gaiser Middle School. Teacher: Ms. Griffing. "Because Their Water Doesn't Have Filters"
- **Jing Xue**, 9th grade, Medallion Art School. Teacher: Mrs. Whiting. "Clean Water is Beneficial"

Honorable mention

- **Karina Linchuk**, 1st grade, Hazel Dell Elementary. Teacher: Ms. Moon, teacher. "Keep the Water Clean"
- **Felecia Mensel**, 2nd grade, Truman Elementary. Teacher: Ms. Schenck. "Save our H2O"
- **Katie Johnson**, 3rd grade, Primelink and Medallion Art School. Teacher: Ms. Whiting. "River's Haiku"
- **Ela Olivera Smith**, 4th grade, Pioneer Elementary. Teacher: Ms. Dondelinger. "Keep our Water Clean"
- **Holly Chapapas**, 8th grade, Shahala Middle School. Teacher: Mr. Love. "S.O.S Clean Water - Save Our Scales"
- **McKenna Spieth**, 8th grade, Shahala Middle School. Teacher Mr. Love. "Keep Our Water Clean"