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**Water Matters Day Essay Winners Take Ultimate School Field  
Trip: Time Travel**  
*High School Students Visit Florida in 1900s*

What was Florida like a century ago? What role did water play in everyday life?

Broward County high school students recently took a trip back in time to investigate questions like these. They were preparing for the Broward Water Matters Day 2005 literary contest.

High school teachers around the county asked students to write letters describing firsthand a typical day in Broward County during the early 1900s. This year's theme was designed to help students understand that life in Broward County today is a direct result of how we have managed our water resources over the past century.

South Plantation High School swept the awards given out by Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs at the event on March 19. Three freshmen in the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration magnet program took top honors: Harrison Reback - first place; Stephanie Gasch – second; Ariana Ragusa - third.

Students won trips to Everglades Day Safari, Butterfly World and Flamingo Gardens where they can personally experience the wildlife and ecosystems they wrote about.

Event sponsors include the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Town of Davie, the City of Cooper City, the South Florida Water Management District, Central Broward Water Control District, South Broward Drainage District, the City of Coconut Creek, Old Plantation Water Control District, Florida Power and Light, The Home Depot, Coca-Cola, and RainBird.

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