



**“RE-BUILDING THE CITY’S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY”**

# **Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

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## **SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD HONORS STORM DRAIN MARKER CONTEST WINNERS**

### **AT WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015 PROGRAM**

**NEW ORLEANS** --- On Wednesday, May 13, 2015, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans honored students at the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature and Technology who participated in a Sewerage and Water Board Green Education program earlier this year, the Storm Drain Marker contest. Students were asked to render a drawing about the things they learned during the Green Education program. The drawings were judged and the winners had their drawing created into a decal that will be used to mark catch-basin covers located throughout the city. The slogans will educate the public on the importance of the role of the catch basin in storm water management and the importance of water quality preservation of Lake Pontchartrain. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners had a 1,000 decals made from their drawings and each received a plaque. All students received a certificate of participation.

In October of last year, the Sewerage and Water Board Environmental Affairs Department and the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Department, in partnership, with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) began a two part program with the students at the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature and Technology. In Part One of the program, the students had an art exhibit, wrote and performed a skit that was based on the pressing need for forming the Sewerage and Water Board in 1899. During their preparation for the art exhibit and performance, the students gained an understanding of the responsibility of the Sewerage and Water Board, as it relates, to drainage pumping. The students were also introduced to the concepts of rainwater harvesting and using “retention ponds” to help lessen the burden on the Drainage System.

Part Two of the Green Education project began early in February with presentations from Ann Wilson, Scott Finney and Thelma Cager of the Sewerage and Water Board’s Environmental Affairs Department. These small group interactions gave students a better opportunity to understand the critical

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idea of storm water management and to ask questions, as well as, learn about how they can participate in water conservation/storm water management activities at home. The culminating activity for this project was the Storm Drain Marker Contest.

Mary Haynes Smith is principal of Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature and Technology and Maxine Cager is the Ranking Teacher who coordinated the Green Education Program with the Sewerage and Water Board, along with Art Teachers Williams Jones and Linda Villavasso.

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