

# Regional schools celebrated Earth Day with 'The Wonders of Water'

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Earth Day is observed on April 22 each year. According to Dr. Bommanna Loganathan, this year Earth Day was special because a larger audience celebrated it with broader scope. The Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society's (KLS-ACS) Chemists Celebrate Earth Day sponsored an illustrated poem contest for K-12 students. Loganathan is the chair of the KLS-ACS and a professor of chemistry at Murray State University.

This year's theme was "The Wonders of Water." The contest was created to instill awareness

among children about the importance of water, and to conserve water and other natural resources for future generations.

K-12 students from regional schools — Murray, Paducah and Morganfield in Kentucky, and Martin, Union City and Jackson in Tennessee — participated in the illustrated poem contest. More than 40 students in three categories (kindergarten-grade 2, grades 3-5 and grades 9-12) submitted their illustrated poems. KLS-ACS members judged the entries. Tennessee State Sen. Lowe Finney presented the awards to the winners during the KLS meeting in Jackson on April 24.

The kindergarten-grade 2 winners were Daniel Crouse, first grade at Concord Elementary School in Paducah, first place; and Katey Johnston, second grade home schooled in Murray, second place.

Winners in grades 3-5 were Katherine Glisson, fourth grade at Clark Elementary School in Paducah, first place; and in a second place tie, Rohan Das, third grade at Murray Elementary School in Murray, and Frannie Hideg, fourth grade at Clark Elementary School.

Grades 9-12 winners were Kaitlyn Steward, 12th grade at Union County High School in Morganfield, first place;

Whitney Workman, 12th grade at Calloway County High School in Murray, second place; and in a second place tie from Union County High School, 12th-graders Cera Crook and LeAnn Mackey.

The winners advance to the National Level Contest.

Also, KLS-ACS members and the Murray State University student members of the American Chemical Society organized chemistry demonstrations at Murray Middle School for fourth graders in Murray and for the public in the Jackson City Park in Tennessee.