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## **MEDIA ALERT • MEDIA ALERT • MEDIA ALERT**

### **Clay, Orange counties are official launch sites for The Great Water Odyssey**

PALATKA, Fla., Feb. 15, 2005 — “The Great Water Odyssey” will be launched Wednesday, Feb. 23, in two schools in Clay and Orange counties.

Developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District over a two-year period, The Great Water Odyssey introduces children to the world of water through an interactive, animated curricula that correlates to Sunshine State Standards and provides Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) practice questions for third, fourth and fifth grades.

The program features cartoon animation with friendly characters, voices, and music and teaches multiple subjects, including reading, history, geography, math, social studies and science.

“Florida’s educators are challenged each day to convey important information to thirsty young minds,” says Linda Burnette, director of the District’s Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs. “The Great Water Odyssey is a tool for teachers to help meet the growing challenges of presenting information in an interesting, entertaining way so that children want to learn.”

Third-graders at the two schools — Doctors Inlet Elementary in Clay County and Arbor Ridge Elementary in Orange County — will join the animated character Hydro as he journeys throughout the world and learns about water and how to conserve it. In the curriculum, students earn enough points to finally find his missing cousin, Agua.

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The launch of the third-grade curriculum is just the first step of The Great Water Odyssey implementation in area schools. In addition to other schools implementing the third-grade program, the District is developing curricula for fourth and fifth graders.

Fourth graders will experience a “time machine” to visit some of Florida’s earliest inhabitants and see some of Florida’s colorful history. Adventurers will discover how the state’s earliest inhabitants used water and how things changed over the years and will learn that all life needs water.

In the fifth grade version, students will learn what it is like to be an elected official of Ollieewood. Students will be challenged to help the mayor of Ollieewood determine if there is enough water in the town’s water budget to support a water park. Students will learn about meeting the needs of the town while maintaining water levels necessary to support natural systems.

The Great Water Odyssey curricula is free to educators, including home-schoolers, within the 18 counties of the St. Johns District.

For more information about The Great Water Odyssey, contact Eileen Tramontana, director of the District’s education and volunteer programs, at (386) 329-4572 or visit the District online at [www.sjrwmd.com/odyssey](http://www.sjrwmd.com/odyssey).

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