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## Del Rey Elementary School installs colorful shade sails courtesy of a grant

By Sora O'Doherty



Former Orinda dermatologist Maryam Mandana Asgari, MD, FAAD, was instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Academy of Dermatology, which was used to install shade sails at Del Rey Elementary School. She was joined by OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton and board member Cara Hoxie. Photo Sora O'Doherty

nationwide. Board President Hillary Weiner noted, "On behalf of the Orinda USD board of trustees, I thank the AAD for this generous grant that has provided attractive and protective shade structures at Del Rey Elementary School. Having this shaded area available gives Del Rey teachers increased flexibility to use outdoor learning spaces as a natural extension of the curriculum while ensuring student safety from overexposure to the sun."

Children and teens are especially vulnerable to the damaging effects of the sun because of their time spent outdoors. Seeking shade is an easy way to reduce the risk of skin cancer. In addition to seeking shade, the Academy recommends everyone protect his or her skin from the sun by covering up and wearing broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.

While skin cancer is highly treatable when caught in its earliest stages, it can be deadly. Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is now the most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old, and the second most common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old. The Shade Structure Program is part of the AAD's SPOT Skin Cancer campaign to reduce the incidence of skin cancer by educating the public about effective skin cancer prevention tips.

Principal Kirsten Theurer expressed her appreciation to the Academy of Dermatology and to Dr. Maryam Asgari specifically for making the grant possible. Former Orinda dermatologist Maryam Mandana Asgari, MD, FAAD, a member of the Academy, sponsored the grant application. Asgari recently moved to Boston, Mass., to practice surgical dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital, but flew back from Boston to cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony.

Before the ribbon was cut, Sam Cao, a fifth-grade student at Del Rey, performed a beautiful violin solo for the assembled guests.

Info: To learn more about the Shade Structure Program or for ways to prevent and detect skin cancer, visit [www.SpotSkinCancer.org](http://www.SpotSkinCancer.org).

Reach the reporter at: [sora@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sora@lamorindaweekly.com)

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