

Hopkins Hill School Dedicates New Playground Shade Structure

The structure was created to protect students and other school guests from harmful UV rays.

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November 16, 2011



On November 9, parents, students, educators and others including State Representative Lisa Tomasso, School Committee member Judi Liner and Coventry Public Education Foundation Vice-President Lisa James gathered at the [Hopkins Hill Elementary School](#) playground for the dedication of the school's newly constructed shade structure.

Principal Tracey Whitehead explained to the crowd how James found and applied for a grant to fund the project in 2009, but did not receive it that year. In 2010, she, along with Whitehead and Diane Kowal, revised the grant for a second submission with sponsorship from East Greenwich dermatologist, Dr. Anita Pedvis-Leftick, and were awarded the \$8,000 by The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) in August, 2010.

The structure was built by [RT Nunes & Sons Construction Company](#) and designed to provide shade and ultraviolet (UV) ray protection for the outdoor area. The AAD also provided a permanent sign promoting the importance of sun safety to be displayed near the shade structure.

Whitehead was also proud to display the school's new mulch that had recently been added to the on-going playground improvement initiative.