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Bay Elementary

My Mom says “the sun sets in you and your sister’s eyes.” I suppose for everyone there is someone special they want to protect. For me, living on the Emerald Coast of Florida, the sun represents happy days on the beach or on the bay with my family. But I know I must protect myself from the sun. Away from school, I have an opportunity to apply and reapply sunscreen. At school, I cannot apply sunscreen. Which leads me to believe that children like me need protection like your sun shade in order to protect us when we can’t protect ourselves.

Living in a tourist community, I often see people sun burnt as red as a lobster! It is funny to see, but I know how miserable they must be. It must ruin their vacation. But worse than that, the sun damage to their skin could affect them for a lifetime, or limit their lifetime. Skin cancer is a scary consequence to face. I wish everyone were aware how easy it is to protect themselves. Following simple rules like applying sunscreen, limiting time in the sun and reapplying sunscreen can really help reduce sun damage to their skin.

One of my favorite times at school is recess. At recess, I am only expected to play. Honestly, I never thought about a sun shade for our playground until this essay contest. On a really hot sunny day the only thing I think about at recess is shade. Usually my friends and I hide under the equipment, but if we had a sun shade we would be free to play whatever and however we want. That makes time at recess well spent!

When I draw about happy times in my life I almost always have a picture of the sun. Sunshine is something that makes me and my family

happy. We all have a responsibility to protect ourselves and the people we love from sun damage. When I apply sunscreen to my face, I also apply sunscreen to my baby sister's face. She is too young to do it herself. Maybe someday when she goes to school here at Bay Elementary she'll play under the sun shade my essay won for our school.

We would love to play and have a shaded structure above our heads. We hope you enjoyed a few of many reasons we would like to have a shaded structure for our school. It would mean a lot to us if we get this shaded structure and now you know why.