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**St. James Academy Initiates “Sun Smart School” Campaign**

*Malignant melanoma is leading cancer killer among young women ages 18-25*

Solana Beach, CA - St. James Academy launches a “Sun Smart School” campaign to educate students about the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) and promote sun safety on campus. Research shows that childhood sun exposure is a contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. More alarming is the fact that malignant melanoma is among the leading cancer killer of young women ages 18-25.

Inspired by a St. James Academy parent who was diagnosed with Melanoma, the “Sun Smart School” campaign is part of a worldwide effort to reduce the incidence rate of skin cancer in countries with major sun exposure. The campaign is supplemented with information and support from the American Melanoma Foundation, the EPA’s Sun Wise Curriculum Kit, and sun safety DVDs used in the science and health curriculum.

To further support the campaign, St. James Academy worked with its local uniform manufacturer, True Grits, to develop protective hats that students could wear on the playground and at school sporting events. St. James Academy is the first school with an official hat on the True Grits school uniform list.

St. James Academy is a K-8 elementary school serving the North County communities of Solana Beach, Del Mar, Carmel Valley, Rancho Santa Fe, Encinitas, Carlsbad and La Costa. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and certified by the Western Catholic Education Association. For more information, please go to [www.saintjamesacademy.com](http://www.saintjamesacademy.com) or call 1-858-755-1777.

