



Otis A. Mason Elementary School  
207 Mason Manatee Way St. Augustine, FL 32086

Dr. Nigel D. Pillay, Principal  
Mrs. Natalie Gitto, Asst. Principal

### OUR VISION:

The "Mason Way" is one that nurtures a passion in every child for personal success, good character, and a desire to learn, explore, and better themselves as they grow to be responsible members of our community.

### OUR MISSION:

At Mason Elementary, we believe student success is fostered by a continuous commitment to improvement, which ensures well-rounded and motivated learners. We do this by maintaining a safe and dynamic learning environment, promoting high expectations for all students, nurturing determination, developing personal relationships, and involving our community.

### January Calendar

12/21 EARLY RELEASE at 1:50  
12/22-1/5 Winter Break  
1/8 Students Return from Winter Break  
1/10 HERO Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
1/15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School  
1/16 SAC Meeting in Media @ 3:30  
1/17 HERO Wed Kindergarten  
1/24 HERO Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
1/24 Jump Rope for Heart Begins!  
1/29 Inservice Day-No school for students  
1/31 HERO Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Hello Manatee Families!

Thank you for a great first half of the 2017-2018 school year. I continue to be humbled and amazed by your dedication and giving nature. Our Yankee Candle fundraiser this year brought us \$12,200+, we have already used some of the funds to purchase Picture Perfect Science, which uses picture books to launch engaging science units. This resource is for all students K-5. All of our fundraising efforts go back to our students in the form of classroom resources and materials. We are especially grateful for all of the contributions and donations provided to the Mason community for our food and toy drives. We were able to make Thanksgiving a possibility for over 25 families this year. Even more astounding, was our holiday toy drive. This year, we made Christmas happen for 87 children in the St. Augustine community. It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without all of you. I would like to personally thank you for sharing in our vision and helping to make the "Mason Way" a reality. Please be safe in your travels and enjoy the break.

See you in January!

*Nigel*

### Volunteering Info

**A volunteer application must be submitted for anyone entering the building during school hours including eating lunch, volunteering in the classroom, and attending field trips. You must be an approved volunteer through the KeepNTrack system. Applications can be filled out online on the Mason website or in the Front Office.**

### Attendance is IMPORTANT!

It is important that your child arrives at school between 8:00 am and 8:25 am. Please make sure your child arrives at school by 8:25 am so that they can be in their classroom ready to learn by 8:30 am. If your child is absent please send a note or email within 48 hours of returning to school.

### CHARACTER COUNTS! 6

#### Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk



Walkers, runners and fitness enthusiasts are invited to participate in the CHARACTER COUNTS! 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 9 a.m. The run/walk will begin and end at Palencia Elementary School.

Register before January 1 and receive a \$5 discount!

[Learn more and register today!](#)

## Collections Update

\*The winning class of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks Collection Contest will be announced and rewarded when school resumes after Winter Break.

\* Our school has received another check from **Coca Cola Give**.

This time we earned \$173.77!

Thank you Manatee families for the Coke lids and codes you are sending in. They really add up.

\* In addition, we are expecting a check from **Box Tops** for over \$1,200.00! Please continue to send Box Tops in with your child.

\*Just a reminder that our school also collects **Tyson A+ Labels**. Each label is worth 24¢ for Otis Mason Elementary.

Thank you for your continued support!



### Interpreter Requests

**If you are in need of an interpreter for an event at Mason, we ask you to send a request in writing at least two weeks in advance to the date of your event. We will do our very best to secure an interpreter, but need your help in asking to notify us as far in advance as you can to assure we are able to have an interpreter in place. Please communicate these requests with your child's teacher and they will pass them on to the office for processing. Thank you for your assistance.**

## St. Johns Elementary Basketball League Schedule 2017-2018

### WEEK 1

1/12 Fri Osceola vs. Mason @  
Solomon Calhoun 5:30 girls/6:30 boys

### WEEK 2

1/19 Fri Mason vs. Crookshank @  
Sebastian 5:30 girls/6:30 boys

### WEEK 3

1/26 Fri Southwoods vs. Mason @  
GRMS 5:30 girls/6:30 boys

### WEEK 4

2/2 Fri Hartley vs. Mason @  
GRMS 5:30 girls/6:30 boys

### WEEK 5

2/9 Fri Mason vs. Webster @  
Murray 5:30 girls/6:30 boys

### WEEK 6

2/21 Wed Mason vs. Southwoods @  
Harris Center 5:30 girls/6:30 boys

3/3 - March Madness Tournament @  
PMHS Time: TBD

## *Future Falcon Pageant*

The Future Falcon Pageant will take place on  
Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets will be sold at the end of rehearsal on  
Monday and Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for \$10  
each. Cash, Checks and Money Orders payable to  
PMHS Cheer will be accepted for payment.  
Children under 3 attend free of charge.

The pageant will consist of the following  
categories: Pre K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Casual Wear, Formal  
Wear, and Speaking; 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Casual Wear,  
Talent (1 minute max), Formal Wear, and Speaking.

For more information, please contact Ms. Jessica  
Turner: [Jessica.Turner@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jessica.Turner@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## Jump Rope for Heart begins January 24<sup>th</sup>!



It's time for Jump Rope For Heart or Hoops For Heart, American Heart  
Association programs that teach students in 38,000 schools nationwide  
valuable lessons that will last a lifetime, such as:

Your child learns about the importance of taking care of their heart and how it works.  
Your child learns the importance of helping others through this service learning project.

Your child feels good for making a difference in people's lives!

Funds raised support the American Heart Association's research and education initiatives  
that save lives in our community. Additionally, the school earns money for PE equipment  
so we can keep our kids MOVING!