



OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY

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The Manatee Memo

News for Mason Families

January 10, 2020



Dr. Nigel D. Pillay, Principal
Mrs. Jill Hillier, Assistant Principal

Dear Mason Families,

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

We have had a great first week back after the winter break. It was wonderful to see all the students and staff rested and ready to take on the second half of the school year. We still have a lot of teaching and learning to do!

Thank you again for your kindness, generosity and support during the holiday season. We had an overwhelming response to our holiday toy drive which benefited over 100 kids from our school. We are very fortunate to have such a giving community!

Report cards will be available on Home Access Center (HAC) on Friday, January 17th. If you need assistance with HAC, please visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like a paper copy.

Celebrate Literacy Week will begin Jan. 27th and conclude Jan. 31st. During this week, students and staff will engage in a variety of literacy based activities including a visit from an author. Your child's teacher will communicate more about this special week as it gets closer.

All the best,

Dr. Nigel D. Pillay & Mrs. Jill Hillier
Principal Assistant 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.

School Hours

School Hours - 7:55AM to 3:45PM (daily)

Student Hours - 8:25AM to 2:45PM (M, T, Th, F)
8:25AM to 1:45PM (Weds.)

1st bell at 8:20, 2nd bell at 8:25

Students arriving after the 2nd bell must be walked inside and signed in by the parent/guardian.

January we will highlight the pillar of RESPECT: follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

Important Dates

- 1/14 – SAC Meeting at 3:30PM in the Media Center
- 1/15 – S.T.A.R. Wednesday for 5th grade
- 1/16 – Spring Pictures for students with order form
- 1/17 – Report cards issued/available on HAC
- 1/20 – NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Day
- 1/22 – S.T.A.R. Wednesday for ESE/Resource
- 1/22-2/7 - Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff
- 1/24 – LEADers with Character Celebration at 8:45AM
- 1/24 – Student Council Winter Dance Grades 3-5
- 1/27 – PTO Meeting at 3:30PM in the Media Center
- 1/27-31 – Celebrate Literacy Week
- 1/29 – S.T.A.R. Wednesday for Kindergarten
WriteScore for grades 3, 4, 5
- 1/31 – NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-service Day
- 2/5 – S.T.A.R. Wednesday for 1st grade
Wear RED for the pillar of Caring
- 2/6 – Interims Issued
- 2/7 – Donations due for Jump Rope for Heart



Jump Rope 4 Heart January 22 – February 7



Our Annual Community Service Project, "Kids Heart Challenge – Jump Rope 4 Heart" (KHC – JR4H) is almost here. This is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association and students can earn some wonderful incentive prizes for raising money to donate to the Lifesaving efforts of the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Heart Association. This means all money raised will impact our immediate area! Last year, Mason Elementary raised a whopping \$15,550 and our goal will be higher this year. Please consider participating this year, whether raising money online or in the designated envelopes. This is a great way to promote "giving back" and "helping" those in need, who are affected by heart-related health issues. Important Dates are listed below.

- 1/22 Wednesday – Challenge Kick-Off: Student Assembly to promote the fundraising campaign, envelopes and campaign info. sent home
- 1/30 Thursday - Donation Envelope Collection Day
- 2/2 Sunday - Super Bowl Sunday: Bring Envelopes to Super Bowl Parties to collect more donations
- 2/7 Friday– Donation Envelopes due. Last Day of KHC – JR4H Campaign

Thanks,
The Mason PE Coaches

Announcements

Frozen in Time –

Student Council will be hosting the winter dance, **Frozen in Time**, on January 24th from 3-5PM in the OMES Cafeteria for 3rd-5th grade students only. Admission will be \$3 and permission slips will go home Friday, Jan. 10th. Ticket sales will be Monday, Jan. 13th until Friday, Jan. 24th.

Edu-Gator Contest Winner –

Congratulations to fourth grader, Jane McManus on winning the Alligator Farm Edu-Gator Contest! Mrs. Siragusa's class will be getting a real live baby American Alligator later this month. This is the third time Otis Mason has won the alligator! Way to go, Jane!

Change of Clothing –

Parents, please send a change of clothes for your student to keep in his/her cubby. The clinic does not always have enough supply to provide students in case of an accident. It can be stored in the classroom or backpack without any trouble. Thank you so much! - Nurse Johna

From the Mason PTO

PTO Meeting:

Please join us for our next PTO meeting on Monday, January 27th at 3:30pm in the Otis Mason Media Center to find out more about upcoming events and how you can be a part of them.

Spirit Rock!

Do you want to do something special for your child, recognizing a birthday or accomplishment? Show appreciation to your favorite teacher or staff member...Our spirit rock is a great way to send a message for all to see! All reservations are made online only using our reservation Sign Up Genius on the Otis Mason PTO website and the fee is just \$20.

<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/pto/spirit-rock/>

Misc PTO Update:

Spirit Wear: Otis Mason Spirit Wear is available to purchase! Show your Manatee pride in a new t-shirt or sweatshirt. Order forms are available at the school and we have many items in stock!
Socks \$8 Shirts \$10 Long Sleeve \$15 Hoodie \$20

Repeated Announcements



The CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee is calling all walkers, runners and fitness enthusiasts to participate in the CHARACTER COUNTS! 6K/3K Run/Walk on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at 9 a.m. The run/walk will begin and end at Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive, St. Augustine.

Registration fees are as follows:

6K: \$25 before January 1 \$30 January 1-January 31 \$35 on race day

3K: \$20 before January 1 \$25 January 1-January 31 \$30 on race day

Registration forms and more information are available online at www.racesmith.com/races/CHARACTERCOUNTS.html.

Race proceeds support CHARACTER COUNTS! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District (SJCS D). The run/walk is open to all ages, and the top three winners will be awarded in each of the age categories as well as the overall male and female finishers. **A cash donation will be awarded to the top three to five schools with the most registrants.**

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 of the event. The school and/or district will arrange for the interpreter but we need your help in asking to notify us as far in advance as you can. Please communicate these requests with your child's teacher and the Assistant Principal (Jill.Hillier@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

We also ask that you let us know as soon as possible if you need to cancel a prearranged interpreter. This is an additional expense to the SJCS D so we appreciate your consideration and helping us to be conscious of these costs.

Special Celebrations –

We love to celebrate when there is a special occasion! However, we ask that you please follow these guidelines if your child is celebrating while at school:

- Treats must be cookies, brownies, or anything sweet that is **ICING FREE** and **PRE-PACKAGED**.
No cupcakes, regular cakes, cookie cakes, or home-baked goods will be permitted.
- Treats may only be shared with your child's classmates and teacher.
- If needed, napkins, plates and/or utensils should be provided to the teacher.
- Communicate with your child's teacher about when you would like to bring something in, what you will be bringing and check if there are any allergies in the class.
- No balloons or banners are permitted. Special shirts or buttons are allowed.
- Birthday invitations must include everyone in the class if they are being handed out at school.

SJCSD Revised Service Animal Policy –

- The school district has revised its policy for service animals in schools. The St. Johns County School District permits the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability and will not engage in any act or practice that has the purpose or effect of discrimination against an individual with a disability in the use of a service animal in accordance with Title II (28 C.F.R. 35.104, 35.136). For more information, please visit the SJCSD or Mason websites.

New Playground OPEN –

- The new playground is finally open! We hope the kids enjoy the new structure!

P.E. News –

- In order to promote healthy food snack choices, the Physical Education (PE) Department needs your help. To provide a reward system in PE for the Manatee money students are earning at school, we will be giving out “healthy snacks” that the students can “buy” when they come to PE class. Everything will be in self-contained small packaging and will not require refrigeration. We are looking for the following donations to make this reward system work:

- Trail Mix
- Cereal Bars/Granola bars
- Popped/Baked Snacks (pretzels, chips, popcorn, Cheetos, etc.)
- Sweet & Salty mix snacks
- Gummy Fruit Snacks

Thanks very much,
The Mason PE Coaches



Please visit our Clubs and Activities webpage to learn more about extracurricular opportunities that are offered at Mason beyond the school day
<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/clubs/>.

Dismissal Changes

If you are changing the way your child normally goes home, please contact the school in one of three ways: a note in the planner, written note from home, or via the Dismissal Change link on our Mason homepage (top right corner if using a computer). Dismissal changes will not be accepted after 2:15PM/1:15PM on Weds. unless there is an emergency.

Volunteers and Visitors

In an ongoing effort to provide safety and security for students and staff, **all visitors and volunteers MUST complete a “School Access Form”** with the SJCSD. The form can be found at

<https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>. If a person does not apply for school access or has been denied access, he/she will NOT be permitted to enter the school building or attend special events during the school day. **Those that have applied and are approved must present a valid ID and wear a printed name badge to enter the building.**

We are always seeking volunteers! Please sign up in KeepnTrack and contact Mrs. Puch at 547-8440 for information on how you can assist our school.

LEAD the way . . . Every day



Live Safely

Exhibit Kindness

Act Responsibly

Demonstrate Respect