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# The Manatee Memo

News for Mason Families

November 6, 2020



Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal  
 Mrs. Jill Hillier, Assistant Principal

Dear Otis A. Mason Families,

Can you believe it's November? We have now been in school for two full months and this past Friday completed the first quarter. Within these nine weeks, we have adjusted to education amidst these unprecedented times, held our first annual Raise Craze fundraiser, welcomed back nearly 100 distance learners to brick and mortar, adjusted to Early Early release Wednesdays, and held hundreds of parent - teacher conferences. Your student's teacher is referring to them as "Intake Conferences". Some of the Intake Conferences have been held in person, masked and socially distanced of course, some virtually via Team, or ZOOM, and a few over the phone. If you have not yet attended your student's conference, I am sure it is scheduled to be held soon. I am very impressed with the level of growing parental involvement at our school and how strong we continue to be, TOGETHER!

Though fun is prime, I want to remind everyone to stay healthy. Make sure our little Manatees come to school masked up every day. With the change of temperatures, be mindful of the need for our little Manatees to come to school, dressed for the weather. Typically, many students arrive at school wearing an additional top layer. This layer will find its way off sometime during the day. Be sure to label the insides of those nice jackets. Lost and found can sometimes be a better place to shop than the shopping mall. Also, this is a good time to remind you of the need to continue conducting those a.m. temperature checks before coming to school. These are vital. Thank you for helping keep our Otis A. Mason school community healthy.

Lastly, OMES parents, ponder this question. *What are your thoughts about a quarterly Manatee Memo Newsletter?* Otis A. Mason Elementary wants to be respectful and vigilant about the precious resource called TIME, yet we do not want to compromise on quality and effective communication. We want to hear from you. Do you have thoughts about how often the Manatee Memo should be published? Do you think it should be published quarterly or do you think we should continue to publish it monthly? Would you prefer to receive short weekly updates, we would refer to them as, The Week-at-a-Glance? Let us hear from you. A survey link will be on our Mason homepage soon and we encourage you to provide input. It will only take you a few short minutes to complete it.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
**Monique Keaton**, Principal

## Parent/Guardian **Bingo!**

Up for a little family fun? November is the month of family, love, and Thanksgiving. There is nothing like a good ol' board game, an afternoon stroll and an act of kindness, right? How about tying all of that and more into a little fun with your school family and participating in the BINGO PARENT CHALLENGE. You will love it! Look for it in your student's Take Home Folder this afternoon. We hope you participate in the BINGO PARENT CHALLENGE. In order to get a good game started the directions must be read. See the back of the BINGO CARD for more information.

## Otis A. Mason Website

Please visit the OMES website each week for important updates and information.

Click here → [OMES Website](https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/)  
 or go to <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

## Important Dates

- 11/10 **Picture Retake/New Student Picture Day**
- 11/5 **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair** – Check OMES to website for details
- 11/18
- 11/11 **NO SCHOOL** – Veterans Day
- 11/13 OME Thanksgiving Food Drive Ends
- 11/16 PTO meeting at 5:30pm via virtual conference
- 11/18 DREAM TEAM Wednesday for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Report Cards Issued (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – Check HAC) **Early Release at 12:55pm**
- 11/24 School Advisory Council meeting at 3:30pm via virtual conference
- 11/25
- 11/26 **NO SCHOOL** – Thanksgiving Break
- 11/27



## Character Counts at OMES! Pillar of the month: Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer



## OMES Thanksgiving Food Drive Now through Nov. 13th



Please help us to collect food items to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to families in our school. With your help, we will work toward giving families a reason to be truly thankful this Thanksgiving season. Simply choose an item(s) by your student's grade level, send them to school, and have your student turn items into the front office.

**PreK/Kgt:** Instant potatoes, Stuffing, Packets of gravy mix, Cranberries

**1st grade:** Mac and cheese, Stuffing, Kool-Aid/Drink mix

**2nd grade:** Instant potatoes, Cans of cream soup, Rice

**3rd grade:** Rice, Mac and cheese, Canned fruit

**4th grade:** Packets of gravy mix, Kool-Aid mix, Cans of cream soup, Cranberries

**5th grade:** Canned fruit, Canned yams, Kool-Aid/Drink mix

## SJCSD ESE Parent Advisory Presents

“STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR CAREGIVERS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES”

Presenter: Sandra M. Rebeor, Psy.D., M.S.H.S.

Date/Time: 11/10/2020 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Follow link to [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

or dial [+1 904-420-0831](#) Conference ID: 895 587 77#

