



# OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

December 10, 2021

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086  
(904) 547-8440 – main (904) 547-8445 – fax

Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal  
Mrs. Anne Marie Raynor, Assistant Principal

## Manatee Highlight: Do You Know Our Registrar, Mrs. Maggie Puch?



Mrs. Maggie Puch is our Computer Operator and Registrar here at OMES. She coordinates all student files, grades, and registration (just to name a few of her responsibilities). Mrs. Puch is one of our tried-and-true friendly faces in the Front Office who helps our school run smoothly and efficiently.

In addition to being our registrar, Mrs. Puch is the mother of two Manatee students. One of Mrs. Puch's favorite things about working at OMES is seeing her children every day. She also loves to draw and paint. You can see lots of her artwork in our Front Office! She learned a lot about painting from the artist Sarah Cray who is the "Bob Ross of Watercolor" on YouTube and Pinterest. If you are thinking about learning more about painting, check her out!

In addition to painting, Mrs. Puch has a love of reading. She always reads the SSYRA books with her kids and they are loving the picks this year. She has already read 64 books this year! When asked about her favorite book, she responded: "I love them all!" Her love of reading started with Harry Potter and two teachers who made reading come alive in the classroom. Mrs. Puch imagines herself as a member of Ravenclaw if you were wondering!

Mrs. Puch's weirdest job before working here was being a balloon artist at a restaurant. She can make a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle out of balloons (in fact, she can make any animal out of balloons)! Check out her artwork and say "hello" if you are one of our students dropping off an attendance folder!



## Character Highlight: Why does Character Count?

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. Why is character so important? Good character is the very foundation of a civil society, and it is what we would like to define us as a community. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be a Trustworthy, Respectful, Responsible, Fair, and Caring Citizen.**

- **Trustworthiness:** How can we teach our children to "do the right thing" even when no one is watching? Value honesty even when you or your child make a mistake.
- **Respect:** How can we teach our children to deal with difference, anger, and disagreements respectfully? Model anger management, compromise, and tolerance for your children. Highlight the importance of diversity in our world. Different solutions, different opinions, and different people make the world a better place. Students should understand that people can disagree and still be cordial to one another.
- **Responsibility:** Foster responsibility in your child by holding your child accountable for their actions. Children should have age-appropriate, daily responsibilities in the household.
- **Fairness:** Though we may teach children that "Life's not fair" it is important to instill fairness in our actions. Help children to follow the rules and apply them fairly and justly. Encourage sharing, taking turns, being open-minded, listening to one another, and supporting each other in times of conflict. It is never right to take advantage of someone else.
- **Caring:** Teach, demonstrate, and expect kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and charity. Helping others is humbling and fulfilling.
- **Citizenship:** How can you demonstrate to your child what it means to be an informed, active, obedient citizen? Why is it important to obey and respect the law?

## Early Release on Tuesday, December 21!

Please remember that the last day of school, Tuesday before winter break, is an Early Release Day. Identical to an early release schedule, all students will be released one hour early! Have a wonderful break.

## Technology Corner:

Need help accessing one of our services online?

### **SCHOOLGY ACCESS:**

[Stjohnnschools.schoology.com](http://Stjohnnschools.schoology.com)

You will then be prompted to sign into Microsoft:

[S#####@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:S#####@stjohns.k12.fl.us) and the student's password

### **HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC):**

HAC access is through the parent-provided email address and password. Please call the Front Office if you are having access issues (547-8440). Students have access to HAC with their student ID number and password.

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

### **SCHOOL ACCESS FORM:**

[Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply](http://Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply)

### **ACCELERATED READER HOME CONNECT:**

<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/>

### **SCHOOL MESSENGER:**

Opt-in to school messages here:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/>



## CONGRATULATIONS, MANATEES!

### Our Student Council Representatives for the 2021-2022 School Year are:

**Student Council PRESIDENT:** Reagan Lopez

**Student Council VICE PRESIDENT:** Easton Crews

**Student Council SECRETARY:** Mya Kellerman

**Student Council TREASURER:** Greyson Smith

Thank you for demonstrating good citizenship as representatives of our school! We are very proud of you!



## Join us! We're Running for Good Causes!

### **Santa Suits on the Loose 5k**

Walk/Jog/Run Challenge 2021



Help the Otis A. Mason Running Team bring home the trophy for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row!!

**Who can run: ANYONE!**

**Where: St. Augustine Pier OR Virtual**

**When: Any time before December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Cost: \$30**

**(Proceeds benefit St. Augustine Youth Services)**



### **CHARACTER COUNTS! 6K/3K Run/Walk**

**When:** Saturday, February 5, 2022, at 9 a.m.

**Where:** Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive

Walkers and runners will enjoy a course running through the neighborhoods of Kensington and Las Calinas and can choose to participate in the 6K (3.73 miles) or 3K (1.86 miles) distance.

**Registration fees are as follows:**

**6K:** \$30 before January 1 \$35 January 1-31 \$40 on race day

**3K:** \$25 before January 1 \$30 January 1-31 \$35 on race day

Registration forms and more information are available online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/StAugustine/CHARACTERCOUNTSinStJohnsCountySixPillars6K3KRunWalk>

Race proceeds support CHARACTER COUNTS! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District (SJCS). A cash donation will be awarded to the top three schools with the most registrants. All race registrants will receive a t-shirt and other goodies from area businesses and organizations. At the finish line, each race participant will receive a commemorative item.

## OMES School-Related Employee of the Year, Mr. Todd Bowen:



Pictured: Ms. Bunnell, Principal Keaton, Mr. Bowen, Ms. Ziegenfuss, Assistant Principal Raynor, former Principal of OMES Ms. Russell.

The St. Johns County School District recognized our very own Maintenance Coordinator, "Mr. Todd" Bowen at World Golf Village on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>! Congratulations, Mr. Todd!

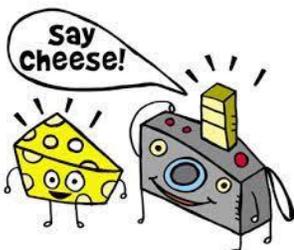
## CONGRATULATIONS, Cheerleading and Basketball!

On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, the OMES Boys and Girls Basketball teams played their tournaments with character and grace! We are so proud of the effort they put forth at practice and during the final games. The Boys won the first game in the first bracket against Webster and ended up being runners up to the championship against Osceola Elementary School. A special thank you to our coaches, Coach Allen and Coach D for the Girls' team and Coach Mitch Gurick for the Boys' team. We also appreciate the sensational squad of Manatee cheerleaders, our very own dancing divas, led by Coaches Nicole Hayes and Erin Harper. Our crowd was pumped up with pomp and pep. It was clear on that basketball court that Character Counts! Thank you and congrats.



## Spring Picture Day Reminder:

Picture Day is coming AGAIN on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Dress in your finest clothes and show us your smile. Order forms and envelopes will be sent home with students on January 6<sup>th</sup> when students return from Winter Break.



## READ, READ, READ!

It is so important that our Manatees keep reading over the holiday break. **Please, read with your student every single day.** Keep a book by the kitchen table, by the couch, in the car, by the bed! Always have a reading level- appropriate book ready to read, read, read.

**Don't have enough books available at home?** Check out the MANY titles available for FREE at our local, public libraries. We partner with the SJCLPS to have our SSYRA titles available for YOU to check out.

When reading with your student, try:

- **I read:** Read the book or a section of a book out loud to your student while they listen. When you are finished, ask them questions about the characters, the plot, and how the story made them feel.
- **We read:** Read the story with your child, allowing them more independence as their skill and ability allows. Help them decode difficult words.
- **You read:** Reverse roles and have the student read to you. Let them ask you questions about the story. Use this as an opportunity to teach good character.

## Important Dates:

**December 11:** Santa Suits on the Loose 5K supporting SAYS

**December 14:** Steel Band Concert at 6:00pm

**December 16:** Boy Scouts of America Parent Info Night 6:00pm to 8:00pm

**December 21:** EARLY RELEASE! End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester

**December 22-January 5:** Winter Break! No School

**January 6:** Students return to class-Welcome Back!

**January 12:** Good News Club starts (Interested? Contact Heather Smith at 904-679-1570)

**January 13:** SPRING PICTURE DAY!

**January 19:** Report Cards go live on HAC

**February 5:** Character Counts! 6K at Palencia

