



207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
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OMES at-a-Glance

News for Otis A. Mason Families

January 27, 2022



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

Manatee Highlight: Do You Know Our Behavioral Specialist, Ms. Shauna Mayo?



Ms. Shauna Mayo is our Instructional Behavior Interventionist. Her favorite part of her job here at Otis A. Mason is working with teachers and students. She enjoys spending time with and getting to know students and teachers. She considers herself a child advocate and wants to help provide children the services they need. Ms. Mayo has always been fascinated with behavior ever since she was little. She has always observed, analyzed, and wondered why people do the things they do.

She stayed at home with her three daughters for 10 years and then went to college when she was in her thirties to get her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. She is currently working on her Masters in Exceptional Student Education with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis. She is very passionate about her students and the whole-child approach. Relationships are very important to Ms. Mayo, and she invests most of her time to forging them with her students. She finds that relationships are the foundation and meaning to life. Her most cherished relationships in her life are the ones she has with her three daughters. She considers them to be her biggest blessings, her number one job in life, and her biggest accomplishments. She is so proud of the young woman the oldest two have become and the youngest is becoming.

Ms. Mayo has always had a love for reading. When she starts a book it's hard for her to put it down and she will stay up all hours of the night to finish it! 😊 Right now she is just reading textbooks, but they are about behavior, so she still loves to read them! Ms. Mayo loves to meet with students so be sure to wave and say "hello" to her.

Character Highlight: This Month is all about the Pillar of RESPECT!

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. The focus for the month of January is RESPECT. Why is respect so important? Respect 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 respectful member of the community.**

- **Model and teach** your child good manners and discuss them often. Consider good manners at different times of the day: what are good manners at the dining room table? What are good manners in the hallway?
- **Allow children to solve problems** that arise daily that are age appropriate. Allowing them to solve problems demonstrates your respect for them and helps them to practice respect in their daily lives.
- **Follow the Golden Rule** and teach children to always treat others the way that they want to be treated. Empathy is so important!
- **Avoid bad language** and encourage respectful language in various situations. Children will follow your lead.
- **Appreciate uniqueness** in all the different people you meet and demonstrate the importance of appreciating all the different people in our lives. Talk with your child about the ways people are alike and different and why differences are wonderful. We all share a common humanity and yet we are spectacularly different.
- **Teach Layers of Respect** by demonstrating to you child how you show respect for: your home, your family, your neighborhood, your school, your community, your city, your state, your country, your values, your world.

Have questions about Character Counts! or character education? Contact our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Holtz at Katherine.holtz@stjohns.k12.fl.us. We are always available to support you with character education.

The Six Pillars of CharacterSM



Technology Corner:

Need help accessing one of our services online?

SCHOOLGY ACCESS:

Stjohnsschools.schoolgy.com

You will then be prompted to sign into Microsoft:

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

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 Faculty and Staff Collected nearly 600 Food items for our "Because We Care Food Drive"

We continue to celebrate thirty years of Otis A. Mason Elementary School! Our way to celebrate in the month of December was to GIVE, GIVE, GIVE. Every member of our school community was tasked with bringing in 4-5 cans and in usual Mason style our community gave much more. Thank you to everyone for sharing your kind heart with others.



Our current drive for the community is collecting activity packets and supplies for our local hospital. Check out the next edition of our newsletter for the final tally on that drive! Thank you, Manatees for being the stellar crew that you are. You make the world a better place every day.

Join us! We're Running for Character!



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 (SJCSD). 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.

School Safety is a Priority:

Every member of the Otis A. Mason Community is encouraged to **download the FORTIFY FL app** onto any cell phone and tablet device for free to help us keep our community safe. The app provides an easy way to alert authorities regarding crime, suspicious behavior, or anything that constitutes a threat to our schools.



Help us make Spring Fling a success!

We would love to welcome Spring as a community. Wouldn't it be fun to have a Spring Fling celebration for our families and children? If this sounds exciting to you, please help us make it happen! **We need volunteers** in order to host a Spring Fling this year. Please consider volunteering by emailing otismasonpto@gmail.com.

OMES PUNT, PASS, KICK 2021 Hall of Fame WINNERS!

We would like to congratulate the following Mason Manatees for displaying their athleticism for the 2021 Punt, Pass, Kick Hall of Fame!

5th Grade Boys:

1. Janard Walker from Ms. Hayes 115 yds.
2. Jonah Baker from Ms. Hayes 95 yds.
3. Noah Cooper from Ms. Steen 85 yds.

5th Grade Girls:

1. Lola Forshey from Ms. Thomas 80 yds.
*Tied School Record Kick of 35 yds for Girls!
2. Madison Fowler from Ms. Hayes 75 yds.
3. Victoria Goodwin from Mr. Gurick 70 yds.

4th Grade Boys:

1. Owen Caldwell from Ms. Siragusa 80 yds.
2. Ethan Steen from Ms. Rusch 70 yds.
3. Amer Elmattoougui from Ms. Varughese 65 yds.

4th Grade Girls:

1. Laila Pill from Ms. Modica 55 yds.
2. Reagan Anderson from Ms. Varughese 55 yds.
3. Natalie Johnson from Ms. Siragusa 50 yds.

3rd Grade Boys:

1. Angel Pagan from Ms. Gay 75 yds.
2. Darian Bullard from Ms. Stewart 70 yds.
3. Liam Lynch from Ms. Harper 65 yds.

3rd Grade Girls:

1. Kamilah McMillian from Philo 65 yds.
2. Bella Semanyk from Ms. Fletcher 45 yds.
3. A'Kari Reynolds from Ms. Gay 45 yds.

A Letter from our RTI/MTSS Team:

Dear OMES Families,

MTSS/RtI meeting invitations are sent via email to the parent/guardian email on file. If your child's teacher has communicated with you that they have referred your child for a possible RtI plan, you can expect to see an initial meeting invitation via email, if student data meets criteria. If your child already has an RtI plan, there are typically review meetings on a six-to-eight-week basis. When you receive an email, there is an option to participate virtually or receive a phone call. If you would like for the school based MTSS/RtI team to phone conference with you, you must reply to the email to request this option. If you have any questions regarding the MTSS/RtI process, please don't hesitate to reach out via email to our Instructional Literacy Coach/MTSS Coordinator, Amy Borie at amy.borie@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

YEARBOOKS are Coming!

Want to purchase an Otis A. Mason Elementary School yearbook? YOU DO! It is very simple to order a yearbook online this year:

BuyTheYearbook.com

Find your school or enter ID# 701979

Yearbooks are \$20.00 and are available for pre-order until April 30th. Please consider that only a limited number of yearbooks will be ordered, and additional copies may not be available later. Only pre-ordered yearbooks are guaranteed so order now if you would like to purchase a yearbook.

Purchase a Student Showcase in our Yearbook!

Available this year is the opportunity for any parent to purchase one full page (\$60), one half of a page (\$30), or one fourth of a page (\$15) to showcase your student! You may choose to share family photos or write a note to your students. Many parents use the space to share student accomplishments and family milestones and memories. **This "ad space" is available for purchase until February 14th.** Simply go to:

BuyTheYearbook.com

Find your school or enter ID# 701979

Important Dates:

January 20-28: Scholastic Book Fair! Students will visit the Book Fair with their class during their regularly scheduled resource day visit. Parents are welcome to attend as well. You are also welcomed to shop before and after school with your student.

January 24 – 28: Celebrate Literacy Week! Launch into literacy with us by celebrating the art of reading with your child. Students will have story time with astronauts on the International Space Station!

January 26: We are celebrating the 100th Day of School!

February 1-5: National School Counselor Week-Thanks for supporting us, Ms. Holtz!

February 5: Character Counts! 6K at Palencia

February 7: Teacher Inservice Day-No School for Students

February 8: Interims issued today

February 14: Last day to order a Yearbook Ad!

February 21: President's Day-No School

March 11-20: SPRING BREAK-No School!

Embrace the JOY of parenting.



An Active Parenting group is starting soon!

We are proud to bring the acclaimed **Active Parenting** program directly to you! This workshop will show you effective ways to...

- use nonviolent discipline that really works
- open up lines of communication—before they get clogged
- teach responsibility, courage, and other important character traits
- encourage school success in 7 steps
- prevent future problems with drugs, alcohol, and sex
- defuse power struggles with your children
- stimulate independence as your child grows older
- stop scolding and start smiling with your kids again!

Active Parenting will give you skills to achieve a fuller, more satisfying family life... and help your children achieve greater happiness and success. Written by Dr. Michael Popkin, one of the nation's foremost experts on parenting education, this course will show you a proven-effective approach to parenting that will lead to more harmony and happiness for you and your children. You'll learn 7 strategies for school success, along with positive discipline and communication techniques to help your family run more smoothly.

But the heart of the matter is the increased JOY you will experience as a family. Since 1983 over three million parents have learned from this dynamic, entertaining, and fun-filled video and discussion program—and now, so can you!



A video & discussion program for parents of children ages 5 to 12

For more information and sample videos, go to www.ActiveParenting.com/AP4-parents.

6- Session Zoom Workshop
Mondays 7:30-9:30PM
Begins January 24, 2022

To Register, click link below
<https://forms.gle/UF2izCMbLmZCS8qdq>



Scan QR Code with your phone

or email
jgavrilko@hanleyfoundation.org



Session 1: Monday, January 24th
Session 2: Monday, January 31st
Session 3: Monday, February 7th
Session 4: Monday, February 14th
Session 5: Monday, February 21st
Session 6: Monday, February 28th

Questions?

Contact Jennifer Gavrilko
530-320-7877

jgavrilko@hanleyfoundation.org

A Message from our OMES PTO:

Can you believe we are halfway through the school year? We just wanted to give a huge shout out to our AMAZING families that continue to support our efforts in making sure our students, teachers, and staff have the tools they need to be successful. We couldn't do it without the contributions both financially and with your very valuable time. The holiday shop was a huge success and watching the children shop for their loved ones was priceless. As we get ready for the second half of the school year, we want to finish strong and to do that we need help with planning Spring Fling. We would love to have a fun family event before the year is done. Also, Teacher Appreciation week is in May, and we want to give our staff a week to remember so if you have a service or business and would like to make a donation, we will gladly accept them. If you are interested in helping, email:

otismasonpto@gmail.com and we will get in contact with you ASAP.

We also have slots open on Wednesdays to help with the Manatee Mall so check out the signup genius link and see where you can

help. <https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/70a0a4ca5a629a5ff2-20212022>. Thank you again, Mason families and we look forward to a great second semester.



★ READER'S OATH ★

I PROMISE TO READ
EACH DAY AND EACH NIGHT.
I KNOW IT'S THE KEY
TO GROWING UP RIGHT.

I'LL READ TO MYSELF,
I'LL READ TO A CROWD.
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE
IF SILENT OR LOUD.

I'LL READ AT MY DESK,
AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL,
ON MY BEAN BAG OR BED,
BY THE FIRE OR POOL.

EACH BOOK THAT I READ
PUTS SMARTS IN MY HEAD,
'CAUSE BRAINS GROW MORE THOUGHTS
THE MORE THEY ARE FED.

SO I TAKE THIS OATH
TO MAKE READING MY WAY
OF FEEDING MY BRAIN
WHAT IT NEEDS EVERY DAY.

