



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

News for Otis A. Mason Families

April 19, 2022

Mrs. Monique Keen
Mrs. Anne Marie Rasmussen



Happy School Library Appreciation Day to our Media Specialist, Mrs. Leslie Bendt!



Did you know it was School Library Appreciation Day last week? Mrs. Leslie Bendt is our Media Specialist here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School. She began her work with the St. John's County School District in 1998 and became a Manatee in 2016.

When asked about her favorite aspect of working for our school, she did not hesitate when she responded, "The heart of the people and being able to share a love of reading." Mrs. Bendt feels fortunate to watch as learning unfolds before her eyes every day. She loves learning alongside her students in Media Resource and she especially loves the reaction of her students during story time.

Her one piece of advice? READ! Read a lot and read often. Read with your child. Listen to your child read. Let your child see you read. Show your child the value of reading regularly. Did you know that Mrs. Bendt is a true fan of non-fiction? Ask her about her favorite book! Mrs. Bendt is always ready to share book recommendations to our parents and students. Whenever you finish discussing your favorite book with Mrs. Bendt, be sure to give her a huge "thank you" for supporting our readers here at Otis A. Mason.

Thank you, Mrs. Bendt! Our Manatee readers are so happy to have you.

Character Highlight: How can I instill good character in my child?

This month will be a little bit different as our Otis A. Mason community will be reviewing ALL of the pillars of character in your child's classroom. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to have good character**.

- **Citizenship:** Is your child old enough to learn how to care for your American flag or a community space? Are they ready to explore age-appropriate news and community events? Could your family participate in a beach cleanup? How about creating a litter-free zone?
- **Responsibility:** Post a chore list on the fridge and give your child the power to complete those chores as a responsible member of the family. Consider a family game night as a reward!
- **Fairness:** Help your child create fair rules for play and for the household. What is a fair way to share family decision making? Who will pick the restaurant this time? Who decides which book the family will read together? Who will get the remote tonight?
- **Caring:** Show gratitude at the dinner table. Each night take turns sharing what and who you are grateful for.
- **Trustworthiness:** Show your child good examples of honesty everywhere you find them. Highlight courageous acts of truth, especially when someone made a mistake. It is truly brave to atone for a mistake.
- **Respect:** Hold high expectations for your child to be respectful. Discuss what is respectful in various settings: the movie theater, the care, the classroom, the park. What is respectful when dealing with different people: a friend, a teacher, a waiter, a grandparent, a public servant?

Have questions about Character Counts! or character education?
Contact our School Counselor, Mrs. 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

You're Invited: Free Event "Be Smart with Your Smartphone"

Please consider attending this free event at Creekside High School. This is the "Teen Addition" of our program to help guide parents regarding common social media pitfalls. This event will help warn parents of problematic apps and websites and will provide healthy guidance regarding smartphones and teens.



**BE SMART WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE:
TEEN EDITION**

**SOCIAL MEDIA PITFALLS
AND YOUR FUTURE**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
6PM TO 7:30PM
CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
100 KNIGHTS LN. ST. JOHNS, FL 32259**

*FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
TEENS, PARENTS, AND EDUCATORS

Logos for St. Johns County School District, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, and St. Johns County Seal are displayed at the bottom.

School Safety is a Priority:



**SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.
DO SOMETHING.**

Logos for FortifyFL and various law enforcement agencies are shown.

- INSTANTLY ALERT LAW ENFORCEMENT ABOUT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & THREATS
- INCLUDE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS EASILY
- REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Download the app today!

Logos for the App Store and Google Play are shown at the bottom.

Otis A. Mason Wins the 2021-2022 Battle of the Books!

We are so proud of our hardworking Battle of the Books team led by our very own Mrs. Wendi Allen! Representatives from the St. Johns County School District were on campus to bestow upon our team the coveted "Battle of the Books" Banner which we will display proudly on our school! Thank you for exploring the SSYRA books for this school year. The new book list is coming out soon. To see a list and description of books for this year and the years past, please check out this website:

<https://guides.ucf.edu/c.php?g=1080666&p=7875124>



VOLUNTEERS needed for FSA Testing!

We have a critical need for volunteers to help during testing season this year. Please consider helping us make this testing season a success.

Please make sure you are a cleared volunteer first:

Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply

Click here to fill-out our proctor interest form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/rTg7qCyY6d>

Please contact the school with questions or for help becoming a school volunteer. (904)-547-8440



Jump Rope for Heart Results:

Top Earning Class by Grade:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Merwin
1st Grade: Mrs. Tanner
2nd Grade: Mrs. Paesch
3rd Grade: Mrs. Fletcher
4th Grade: Mrs. Rusch
5th Grade: Mrs. Thomas

Top Earning Grades:

1st Place: 1st Grade with \$12, 785
2nd Place: 3rd Grade with \$6, 156
3rd Place: Kindergarten with \$4, 414

Top earning Class: Mrs. Tanner!

King of Hearts: Aiden Johnson in Tanner's class

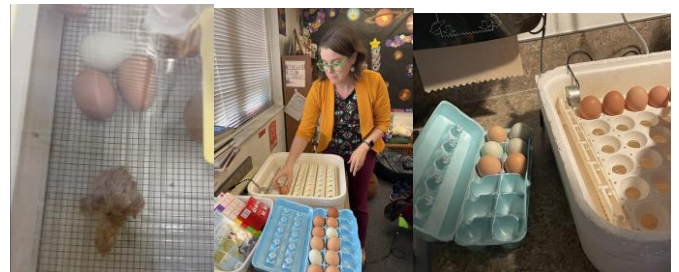
Queen of Hearts: Emma Radabaugh in Merwin's class

Prince of Hearts: Brayden Smith in Turner's class

Princess of Hearts: Paisley Hitchcock in Tanner's class

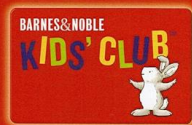
4th and 5th Graders are EGG-cited about our Hatching Chicks!

Otis A. Mason Elementary teamed up with 4H to teach Embryology. Our students eagerly adopted eggs and even more eagerly watched the incubators as our chicks emerged from their embryotic state into life. What a wonderful opportunity for our students!



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every time you shop.

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and Toys In Store and at bn.com

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Barnes & Noble Kids' Club™ Program participating must be 18 years or older with at least one child in their family. Children in the family must be 12 years or under.
*The new Rewards Card at the Barnes & Noble Kids' Club must be activated and all Barnes & Noble Kids' Club members must be members of the Barnes & Noble Kids' Club program. Rewards are earned on purchases of kids' books and toys in store and online. Rewards are earned on purchases of kids' books and toys in store and online. Rewards are earned on purchases of kids' books and toys in store and online.
**Discount is off list price. Excludes sale items. Valid on one item purchase only.
Learn more at bn.com/kidsclub or ask a bookseller for a copy of the Terms & Conditions.

BN100 11/2018

Steel Band Concert Delights!

Our very own Steel Drum Band played at the 2022 Florida Music Association Steel Band Festival. We are so proud of their hard work and dedication to the instrument. They played a unique rendition of Old MacDonald (with animal sounds!), the Bohemian Folksong, and the Kingston Market tune. A huge "thank you" to Mr. Bennett for his leadership as well.



Important Dates:

April 26: Interims Issued

April 30: Last chance to purchase a YEARBOOK at
BuyTheYearbook.com (school ID# 701979)

May 6: Last day for students to check out books from the Media Center.

May 13: Library book Return Day: All borrowed books are due back by today.

June 2: Last day of school