



OMES at-a-Glance



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(904) 547-8440 – main (904) 547-8445 – fax

News for Otis A. Mason Families

February 24, 2022

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

Manatee Highlight: Our School Counselor, Mrs. Holtz?



Mrs. Kathy Holtz is our new School Counselor here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School. Mrs. Holtz has a passion for creating positive environments where students feel they belong and are motivated to succeed. She has many favorite parts of her job. She loves building relationships with students, teachers, staff, and parents; and working one-on-one, in groups, and in classrooms with students. In addition, planning school-wide events and structuring each day to help the school grow and maintain a positive atmosphere is where another part of her passion lies. Mrs. Holtz comes to us from New York where she earned her bachelor's in Psychology, with a minor in Sociology in 2004. She earned her master's degree in School Counseling in 2006. While she is a native to upstate New York, she spent 5 years living in Las Vegas where she enjoyed her time providing intervention services to foster children and fell into a long-term career as a Dance Teacher. Upon moving back to New York, Mrs. Holtz opened a dance studio based on teaching character development in every lesson.

Outside of her work life, Mrs. Holtz enjoys spending quality time with her husband and 2 boys, ages 3 and 11. Riding bikes, going to playgrounds, visiting the beach, and camping are some of their most popular family activities. In addition to enjoying family time, Mrs. Holtz attends ballet class and Zumba class as her mindfulness activities. Mrs. Holtz loves building furniture, painting, and creating anything out of nothing. Since beginning at Otis A. Mason, Mrs. Holtz has learned so much and continues to integrate herself into the school community every day. She is excited to be a Manatee!

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

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. The focus for the month of February is CARING. Why is it so important to be caring in our community? Caring 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 CARING member of the community.**

- **BE KIND!** Show your child what kindness looks like in all situations (especially when you are in situations where you are angry, frustrated, disappointed, and tired).
- **Express gratitude regularly.** Does your child show gratitude to you? What about siblings? Are they able to say "thank you" regularly to those who provide services: waiters, bus drivers, teachers, cashiers, and clerks? Let's be the example!
- **Help people in need.** It is never too early to get your child involved in charitable giving. Teach them to recognize when someone is struggling and what age-appropriate help looks like. Include your child in making donations to charitable organizations when clothing or toys are outgrown.
- **Show others that you care!** Consider incorporating random acts of kindness into your household and neighborhood. Check out the amazing and positive acts of kindness that have gone viral online! See the Kindness Bingo card on the last page of this newsletter!
- **Show kindness and compassion online:** If social media is a large part of your family life, be sure to demonstrate kind online etiquette to set a good example for your child.

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

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/>

LOST ITEMS NEED TO BE FOUND: HELP!

We continue to search for the owners of items in our vast Lost and Found located in the cafeteria. PLEASE have your student check this area regularly. They may stop by before or after school or during lunch or with teacher permission. Any approved volunteers are also welcome to sign-in at the Front Office and check the Lost and Found for items belonging to their family.



- LABEL all items belonging to your child including backpacks, jackets, water bottles, lunch boxes
- CHECK, CHECK, CHECK! Talk to your child about checking their surroundings before they leave an area.
- BE ON THE LOOK OUT! Check the Lost and Found regularly.

Thank you, Manatees for Volunteering for Pie in the Sky!



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.



"Celebrating 30 Years of Spring" Festival



We are so excited to be able to celebrate Spring TOGETHER. We can't wait to celebrate BUT we need YOUR help. Please consider how you can contribute by checking out the options below. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you are interested in helping to make this community event a success.

- Are you available to help plan an event?
- Are you available to help set up?
- Are you available to work a booth for one hour?
- Are you available to help clean up afterwards?

Bring your students to volunteer as well! Please make sure you are a cleared volunteer first:

Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply



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 March 14th. 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.



Important Dates:



February 25: Whole-class Photos

February 28: Tijuana Flats Spirit Night 5pm-8pm

March 10: Third Quarter Ends; "Celebrate 30 Years of Spring" Festival from 5pm to 7pm

March 11: Teacher Planning Day-Student Holiday

March 11-20: SPRING BREAK-No School!

March 21: Classes Resume


March 29: Report Cards Issued

April: FSA Testing Begins; WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help proctor tests-please sign up 😊

April 26: Interims Issued

April 30: Last Day to order Yearbooks

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!

ACTIVE PARENTING™

4th edition

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/UF2izCMbLmZC58qdq>



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

Kindness Bingo Board for the Family:



Random Acts of Kindness Board



Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Directions: After you complete one "Random Act of Kindness" activity, check off or color in the appropriate box. Challenge yourself and see if you can get all 16 done in one week!

Write a positive note to a classmate	Let someone go before you in line	Push in someone's chair	Hold a door open for someone
Play with someone new during recess	Give a silent wave	Say "hi" to someone new	Thank an adult in the school for something they do.
Sharpen someone's pencils	Make a card for your favorite teacher	Give a compliment to someone	Help someone who has dropped something
Help someone before they ask	Give a nice compliment	Clean up after yourself	Clean up after someone else

TRUSTWORTHINESS WAY

CHARACTER COUNTS!

RESPECT AVENUE

CHARACTER COUNTS!

RESPONSIBILITY RD

CHARACTER COUNTS!

FAIRNESS BLVD

CHARACTER COUNTS!

CARING STREET

CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITIZENSHIP LANE

CHARACTER COUNTS!

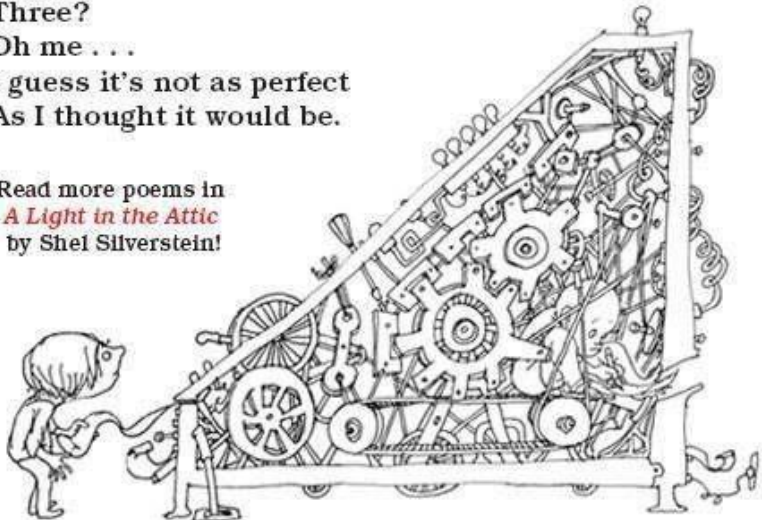
HOMESCHOOL MACHINE

The Homework Machine, oh the Homework Machine,
 Most perfect contraption that's ever been seen.
 Just put in your homework, then drop in a dime,
 Snap on the switch, and in ten seconds' time,
 Your homework comes out, quick and clean as can be.
 Here it is—"nine plus four?" and the answer is "three."
 Three?

Oh me . . .

I guess it's not as perfect
 As I thought it would be.

Read more poems in
A Light in the Attic
 by Shel Silverstein!



A Light in the Attic © 1981 Evid Eye Music, Inc.