



# OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families  
December 2022

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  
Mrs. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal

## Manatee Highlight: Do You Know Our Registrar, Mrs. Darby Roberts?

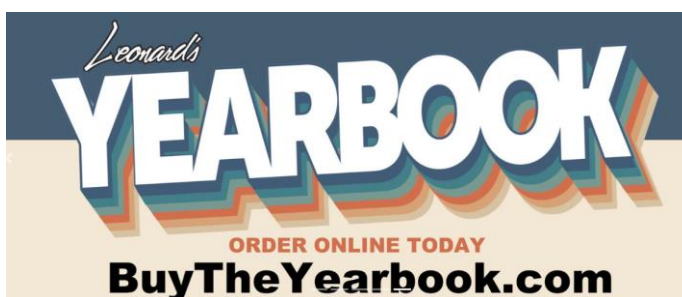


Mrs. Darby Roberts is our Computer Operator and Registrar here at OMES. She coordinates all student files, grades, and registration (just to name a few of her responsibilities). Mrs. Roberts is a new, friendly face in the Front Office. Often our students will ask, "what does Mrs. Roberts do?" Her answer:

"My job is to get children into school so they can learn."

Mrs. Robert's favorite movie is National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. Her favorite Marvel superhero is Doctor Strange! Her family loves watching superhero movies together and she is always up for discussing them. She is a HUGE fan of the Georgia Bulldogs and the color blue. If Mrs. Roberts were in a Harry Potter House, it would be Gryffindor (of course!). She loves watching the TV show King of Queens because it really makes her laugh. Be sure to say "hello" if you are one of our students dropping off an attendance folder outside of her office. She loves meeting our students.

**Buy your Yearbook FOR \$20 UNTIL 12/20!**  
**The cost will be \$25 after that**



## Last Day before Winter Break is a Regular Early Release Wednesday on December 21!



## 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! People can disagree and still be cordial to one another.
- **Responsibility:** Foster responsibility in your child by holding them 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.**
- **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? **How does one obey and respect the law?**



## Technology Corner:

Need help accessing one of our services online?

### SCHOOL ACCESS:

[Stjohnsschools.schoolology.com](http://Stjohnsschools.schoolology.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/>

## We're Running for Good Causes!

### Santa Suits on the Loose 5k

Walk/Jog/Run Challenge 2022



Help the Otis A. Mason Running Team bring home the trophy!

Who can run: ANYONE!

Where: St. Augustine Pier

When: Any time before December 10<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$30 (Proceeds benefit St. Augustine Youth Services)

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/StAugustine/SantaSuitsOnTheLoose5KWalkJogRun>



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

**When:** Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9 a.m.

**Where:** Palencia Elementary School: 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.



## CONGRATULATIONS, MANATEE MOB!

**Manatee Mob PRESIDENT:** Zoey Hackett

**Manatee Mob VICE PRESIDENT:** Laila Pill

**Manatee Mob SECRETARY:** Emily Hinds

**Manatee Mob TREASURER:** Michael Kelley

**Manatee Mob Council Liaisons:** Stella Shuford & Piper Carcaba



## OMES School-Related Employee of the Year, Mrs. Danielle Waler:



Pictured Left to Right: Assistant Principal Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal Annie Raynor, Superintendent Tim Forson, and Guidance Clerk Danie Waler

The St. Johns County School District recognized Mrs. Danielle Waler, our Guidance Clerk, as the school-related employee of the year for 2022. Last year's winner was our Maintenance Coordinator, Mr. Todd Bowen.

## The SJCS D is Looking for Dedicated, Caring Substitute Teachers! Join Our Team



St Johns County School District

## Next Hiring for Substitute Teachers

Posting Dec. 19, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023

in AppliTrack Application System

SJCS D is ready to hire substitute teachers who are  
ready to make a difference for students in

Pre-K - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

The substitute teacher role provides:

- Opportunity to put your degree to work.
- Flexibility – you pick the days and schools.
- An opportunity to work with diverse student populations.
- An opportunity to contribute to the learning and development of the students in our school district.

Come join our team.

Applicants who hold a minimum of an Associate degree or equivalent of 60 credits or higher and who are 20 years of age or older are eligible to apply. Preferences given to applicants that have graduated or are graduating from an Education program. All applicants will be reviewed for strong teaching potential, above average references, experience in critical need areas, and/or an education degree.

For full job description, requirements and to apply online,

Visit: <https://www.appli-track.com/stjohns/onlineapp/>

Questions? Please call 904-547-7636 Substitute Helpdesk or  
application questions call AppliTrack helpdesk 547-7631



## 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.

## A Reminder from Our School Counselor



**COUNSELOR'S  
CORNER**

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**WE HAVE A WEBPAGE!**

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



## Learning Lab!

Our Learning Lab is collaborating with classroom teachers to enhance lessons and help students reach their goals! The Lab is need of the following items: copy paper, boxes of tissue, rolls of paper towels, and bags of m+m's, Skittles, Smarties (or other small candies), to present as incentives for reaching their goals in the learning lab.

If you would like to make a donation you can bring any of the above items to the front office.



## Congratulations, Halloween Poster Winners and Honorable Mentions:

Hamza Filat

Heaven Bamberg

Zoey Hackett

Hailey Knight

Lillian Perez

Category 1- Grades Pre-k-2nd  
Winner: Hamza Filat- K  
Honorable Mention: Hailey Knight-2nd



Category 2- Grades 3rd-5th  
Winner: Zoey Hackett-5th  
Honorable Mentions:  
Lillian Perez & Heaven Bamberg- 5th



## Congratulations, Spelling Bee Participants:



Pictured Top Three Spellers: Remi Hlavaty, Connor Sherman, Graham Dixon

The top ten spellers for Otis A. Mason Elementary School (the top two spellers from each class) participated in the school Spelling Bee on November 21st:

Graham Dixon  
Connor Sherman  
Remi Hlavaty  
Taniya Mitchell  
Quinn Pratt

Landon Lee  
Nolan Driskell  
Gavin Talley  
Sofia Navarro  
Laila Pill

Congratulations to our school winner, **Graham Dixon**, who will compete at the District Spelling Bee on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Important Dates:

**December 5-9:** Holiday Shop

**December 7:** Pearl Harbor Day

**December 8:** Club Photos with Leonard's

**December 12:** Holiday Bingo Night sponsored by PTO

**December 13:** SAC Meeting 3:30pm in the Media Center

**December 15:** Bill of Rights Day

**December 20:** Last chance to buy the yearbook for \$20

**December 20:** Character Counts! Celebration

**December 21:** End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester; Winter break!

**December 22-January 4:** Winter Break! No School

**January 5:** Students return to class-Welcome Back!

**January 5:** Yearbooks for sale for \$25



## CONGRATULATIONS, Cheerleading and Basketball!

On Saturday, November 19<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. They have worked hard this season and we could see it on the court! The OMES Girls Basketball Team won second place overall in the championships! A special thank you to our coaches, Coach Allen, Coach Davis, Coach Jones, and our team supporter, Melinda Stevens.

The Boys Basketball team played their best and into overtime with Coach Mitch Gurick leading them. We also appreciate the sensational squad of Manatee cheerleaders, our very own dancing divas, led by Coaches Hayes, Harper, Sikes, and Modica. Our crowd was pumped up with pomp and pep. It was clear on that basketball court that Character Counts! Thank you and congratulations to our hard-working Manatees.