



OMES at-a-Glance



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

News for Otis A. Mason Families
November 2022

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

Manatee Highlight: Do You Know Assistant Principal Marie Antoine?



We are so excited to announce that Otis A. Mason Elementary School has a new Assistant Principal! That's right, we now have TWO, incredible Assistant Principals to serve the needs of our students. We hope that you will have the opportunity to get to know Ms. Marie Antoine. Until you get to meet her in person, here is a little bit about her: Ms. Antoine attended the Universite of Rouen, France; Jacksonville University; and the University of North Florida. She worked at R.B. Hunt Elementary School before she came to our school. When asked what her favorite part about being an Assistant Principal she replied:

"Seeing the students' happy faces when they enter school"

Ms. Antoine loves helping students plan for their futures and she encourages parents to read, read, read to their students EVERYDAY! Ms. Antoine's favorite book to read to students is The Magician's Hat by Malcolm Mitchell. I am sure you are wondering who her favorite superhero is THOR! She loves the Marvel movies, so be sure to ask her about them.

Ms. Antoine has traveled to many different countries in her lifetime, and she has so many interesting stories to share. Did you know she has traveled to Bahrain, Singapore, and Namibia? She challenges you to find those countries on a map!

When asked to give her top advice to parents, she said:

"Read with your children"

Such simple, but important advice to our parents. Read enthusiastically and often. Read about everything and anything. Just read.

Thank you, Ms. Antoine!

Character Highlight: THIS Month is ALL About CITIZENSHIP!

This month we have been focusing on the Character Counts Pillar of Citizenship. Our district believes that every child has the potential to be a good citizen and we need YOUR help! Please help us build character in your child by working on the following:

- Consider good citizenship in your household: how can every family member contribute to the household? Make a list of age-appropriate chores!
- Discuss good citizenship at school: how can parents and students contribute to our Otis Mason community to make the school a better place?
- Demonstrate what it means to be a good neighbor: how can we serve those who need us in our neighborhood? What age-appropriate tasks could our Manatees help with? How can we politely acknowledge our neighbors when we see them? Even a smile can be an act of neighborly love!
- Support students in the decision-making process. Guide them to make choices that protect the safety and rights of others. Does that choice leave a place better than we found it?
- Lead by example: protect the environment, get involved, vote, CARE!

Teachers will be providing lessons that discuss the importance of citizenship at our school, in our home, and in our community. We are so proud of our students and the work they do every day to nurture their character. Thank you for helping to make the world a better place, Manatees!

Otis A. Mason Recognized as an Outstanding Character Counts! School

Did you know that our very own SJCS D was recognized by the Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University as a *Character Counts!* Exemplary School District? We are so proud of the honor bestowed upon our school district. Did you hear that our very own Otis A. Mason Elementary School has been selected as an exemplary elementary school as well? That's right, our school was selected as a school of exemplary character. From the moment a student arrives on our campus, we emphasize the importance of good choices and good character. We hope you will join us in celebrating this honor of being an exemplary *Character Counts!* school. We appreciate your support. It takes a village to raise children of character and we are so happy to be a part of this community. Let us continue the work of building character in our students every day. Please let us know if you need help, advice, or support with building character in our community.

PTO and SAC: Community Involvement



Our upcoming events need volunteers:

December 5-9 HOLIDAY shop:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4ca5a629a5ff2-themanatee1>

PTO-sponsored Holiday Hoedown BBQ Luncheon for Staff:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4ca5a629a5ff2-otis1>

PTO Meeting: November 28th at 3:30pm in the Media Center. You may email the PTO at OtisMasonPTO@gmail.com

SAC Meeting: December 13th at 3:30pm in the Media Center. You may email the SAC at OtisMasonSAC@gmail.com

Technology Corner:

Need help accessing one of our services online?

SCHOOLGY: [Stjohnsschools.schoolgy.com](https://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 (for volunteering):

[Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply](https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply)

ACCELERATED READER HOME CONNECT:

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

SCHOOL MESSENGER:

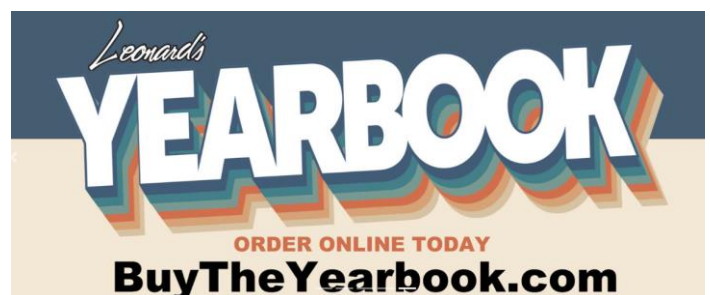
Opt-in to school messages here:

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

Leonard's Photography: For your Picture and Yearbook Needs

Please contact Leonard's Photography for all of your school photo and yearbook needs. Parents still have the ability to get their child photographed in order to be included in our yearbook (even if you missed the original Picture Day and Retakes Day). Please call Leonard's to schedule an in-studio photo retake. They have dates for retakes at participating studios on **November 17th** and **November 30th**. Please be patient if you have ordered photos. All photos ordered for the original Picture Day have been received and distributed. Orders placed for retakes have been processed, but it will take time for them to distribute photos. If you ordered pictures on the original Picture Day and did not receive your order, please call or email Leonard's directly.

Local Phone Number: 904-209-3300 or 1-800-215-4852 or their website: <https://new.leonards.com/>






We Need You! Volunteer as an Educational Surrogate Parent for a Student with a Disability

There are students with disabilities in our district who very much need an Educational Surrogate Parent. A surrogate parent is an individual who has been appointed to act in the place of a parent in safeguarding a child's rights in the special education decision-making process. The surrogate parent represents the interests of the child in all areas relating to the exceptional student education process and the provision of a free appropriate public education.

A surrogate parent is not someone who takes care of the child (like an adoptive parent or a foster parent) and is not financially responsible for the child. Educational surrogate parents have a very important role. They help the child and the school; they also help their community meet the needs of its students with disabilities. The rewards for surrogate parents: the opportunity to share your time, use your skills, build relationships, and see the results in your own community and in the life of a child.

We will be hosting an online training on December 6, 2022 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (see flyer below or [click here to join](#)).

Lisa Bell, Senior Director for Exceptional Student Education

PLEASE JOIN
ST JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN COLLABORATION WITH
FDLRS/NEFEC FOR AN


EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT TRAINING

Purpose of Training =

- Train volunteers to serve as an Educational Surrogate Parent for a SJCSO student with a disability whose parents rights have been terminated or whose parent cannot be located
- An Educational Surrogate Parent acts in the place of the parent to make educational decisions on behalf of children who are or may be eligible for special education in all matters relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, and provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE)
- An Educational Surrogate Parent does not take care of the child and is not financially responsible for the child

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device via link below:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



DECEMBER 6, 2022
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Presenters:
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System / NorthEast Florida Educational Consortium (FDLRS/NEFEC)

This training will be held via Microsoft Teams platform

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

12/6/22

COUNSELOR

Ask your child what we've been up to!

Coming Up

Finishing up Growth Mindset Assemblies

School Wide Lesson Gratitude

November Character Pillar: Citizenship
December Character: All Pillars!

Election Day!
We will be voting for our Character Council!
Manatee Mob Board Member Nominations
Manatee Mob Crews coming soon!

So Far This Year!

Character Counts! Kick Off!
"A Community of LEADers Where Character Counts!"

Classroom Lessons:
Meet the Counselor
Conflict Resolution
Size of Our Problem
Rude, Mean, Bullying?
Power of Words

School Wide Lessons:
A Perfect Fit: School Puzzle
Be Your Own Dream Catcher

Assembly: Growth Mindset

Raise Craze School Fundraiser!
Promoting Kindness

Character Pillars:
September: Fairness
October: Responsibility

Character Counts! Week
Red Ribbon Week





































Gifted Parent Advisory Council

JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT YOUR GIFTED STUDENT

NEASE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

DECEMBER 6, 2022 6:30-8:00 PM

PARENTS OF K-12 GIFTED STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE GPAC MEETINGS TO SUPPORT AND IMPROVE OUR EFFORTS IN SERVING OUR GIFTED STUDENTS

PTO NEWS AND GRATITUDE:

Thank you to all of our Manatees for Raising Craze! Our fundraiser brought in so much money and even more acts of kindness. We hope that our students and families will continue to do good in their community!

We sold 1,431 BOO GRAMS this year! That is an all-time record!

Raise Craze Finals

Total Raised \$33,356.00

1,188 Acts of Kindness

TOP DOLLAR RAISED CLASS:

Ms. Merwin's Kindergarten Class - \$2,490

TOP AOK CLASS WAS:

Ms. Fletcher's 3rd Grade Class - 125

Top AOK Students per Grade

PRE-K/VPK - CJ Morris - 10 (Ross)

Kindergarten - Giana Flores - 32 (Hanson)

1st Grade - Viviana Flores - 35 (Villarreal)

2nd Grade - Grace Kelley - 21 (Jones)

3rd Grade - Adalynn Flores - 36 (Fletcher)

4th Grade - Michael Kelley - 19 (Ziegenfuss)

5th Grade - Ethan Steen - 11 (Thomas)

5th Grade - Raegan Anderson - 11 (Steen)

Top Dollar Students per Grade

PRE-K/VPK: CJ Morris - \$1,300 (Ross)

Kindergarten: Maddie Taylor - \$1,200 (Merwin)

1st Grade: Annelise Cantrell - \$1,270 (Austin)

2nd Grade: Grace Kelley - \$350 (Jones)

3rd Grade: Ritage Albayari - \$580 (Stewart)

4th Grade: Sophia Stilwell - \$670 (Downey)

5th Grade: Ethan Steen - \$375 (Thomas)



Thank you, SJC Fire Rescue!

St. Johns County Fire Rescue supported our Fire Prevention and Safety month by bringing their truck and equipment by and speaking to our students about fire safety. We appreciate their time and dedication.



CHASE AWAY CANCER

Chase Seguin is a St. Augustine local, an active member of Ancient City Soccer, and an outstanding 4th grade student at Otis A. Mason Elementary. Recently Chase was diagnosed with childhood leukemia after a routine checkup at the doctor. Although Chase is now in remission, he and his family still have a long road ahead of them. 100% of all t-shirt profits will go towards the Seguin family during this difficult time. If you should not want a t-shirt, please consider donating at [Go Fund Me-Chase Away Cancer](https://www.gofundme.com/chase-away-cancer).



SIZES AVAILABLE:
ADULT S-5XL
YOUTH XS-XL

ADULT S-XL: \$18
ADULT 2XL-5XL: \$23
YOUTH XS-XL: \$15

50/50 Blended
T-Shirts

Available in Gold
Only-
Chase's Favorite
Color

CHASE APPROVED!

ON BEHALF OF:

Home Grown Designs
& The Hitchcock Family

Cash or Venmo Accepted

Venmo: @Jackie-Hitchcock

Email Order Requests to:

jackiehitchcock@yahoo.com

Email your order to Jackie.hitchcock@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Important Dates:

November 14: Spirit Night at Captain Cones 4:30-7:30pm

November 17: Interims

November 23-25: Thanksgiving Break-NO SCHOOL

December 5-9: Holiday Shop

December 7: SAC Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

December 12: Holiday Bingo Night sponsored by PTO

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