



OMES at-a-Glance

News for Otis A. Mason Families

October 2022



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

Manatee Highlight: Do You Know our New Art Teacher, Mrs. Cacchione?



★ ★ MEET YOUR NEW ★ ★

ART TEACHER

Mrs. Cacchione

HELLO STUDENTS & PARENTS!



We are so excited to introduce our new art teacher, Mrs. C. She comes to us with a BA in Graphic Arts and ten years of experience in graphic and web design. Her favorite artist is Frida Kahlo because of the bright colors in her art. Mrs. C loves to make art by mixing pencil and sharpie. Her advice for our young artists?

"Never care about other people's opinion when it comes to your art. Art is what you make of it. Who cares what someone else thinks?"

Interested in nurturing a love for art in your child? Mrs. C suggests the Cummer Museum of Art which has an exhibition of local artists. What is her advice to parents?

"Let your child express art in their own way."

In addition to art, Mrs. C loves and knows a lot about landscaping and gardening. She also adores Harry Potter! Her favorite music is 1970s R & B and Soul, and her favorite animal is a raccoon.

Please join us in welcoming her. If you have questions about our art program, please reach out to her at Kevanie.countscacchione@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Parent-Teacher Conferences, also known as In-take Conferences have started! **Have you met** one-on-one with your child's teacher yet? During this experience you will specifically discuss your child's progress. Otis A. Mason Elementary School provides this personalized approach to conferences because our teachers strongly believe your child and you deserve it. Look forward to having this conference with your child's teacher!

Character Highlight: THIS Month is ALL About RESPONSIBILITY:

This month we are focusing on the Character Counts Pillar of Responsibility. **Our district believes that every child has the potential to be responsible** and we need YOUR help! What responsibilities does your child have around the house? Please help us build character in your child by considering the following:

- **Emphasize and reward responsible choices** but always communicate unconditional love, even when a child makes a poor choice.
- **Focus on the process of making good choices** and praise and encourage the effort involved in the decision-making process.
- **Offer choices with acceptable limits** and trust your child to make the decision and learn from mistakes so they can gain confidence.
- **Limit screen time and encourage responsible usage** by choosing age-appropriate shows, movies, and video games that teach responsibility and ethical decision-making with technology. Consider using video games and screen time as a reward for positive choices.
- **Create predictable structure and routine** for your child regarding choices and consequences. Does the child know what is expected? Do you allow the child to make the choice? Are the rewards and consequences *known* and *predictable*?

Mrs. Holtz will be visiting your child's classroom soon to discuss the importance of character 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!

The Six Pillars of CharacterSM



Have you checked HAC today?

Access your child's progress on HAC using the parent-provided email address and password. Call the Front Office if you are having access issues (547-8440). Students have access to HAC with their student ID (S#####) and password. <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

Thank you, Bus Drivers!

October 17th -21st is NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK!

The Otis A. Mason community would like to show some love and gratitude to our bus drivers. As you may know, there has been a nation-wide shortage of bus drivers and assistants. Our transportation workers have been working overtime for our community. They are picking up MORE kids on LONGER routes with increasing NEEDS. Let's show them how much we appreciate them!



Halloween Drawing Contest

HALLOWEEN DRAWING CONTEST

To enter you must complete a fall or Halloween themed poster using any art media (pencil, paint, etc.) of your choosing.

Artwork must include your name, teacher's name, and a description of your artwork on the back. Artwork will not be considered if it shows violence.

Two winners will be selected. Winners will receive an Amazon giftcard along with a hand picked, one of a kind, art inspired water cup.



Hello Accelerated Reader!

Every student in grades 1 through 5 at Otis A. Mason Elementary School is setting an AR Goal and will have access to AR Home Connect to achieve that goal. We are expecting and encouraging students to read at school as well as at home to achieve their AR goal! Students have access to this in our very own Media Center with Ms. Allen before and after school as well as during their resource time. Students can use the program to further engage the reading and take quizzes on their books as well as find books at their reading level. Students can read anytime and anywhere, but AR Home Connect makes it easier than ever to support your child.

Parent, make sure YOU get connected!

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



Important Dates:

October 10: PTO is selling BOO! Grams this month; Boys and Girls Basketball Games

October 10-October 31: Parent-Teacher conferences

October 11: SAC Meeting 3:30pm in the Media Center

October 14: End of Quarter 1; Chick-fil-A Spirit Night!

October 17: Teacher Planning Day; Boys and Girls Basketball Games

October 17-24: Bus Driver Appreciation Week

October 24: PTO Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

October 25: Report Cards; Boys and Girls Basketball Games

October 27: PTO-Sponsored Trunk or Treat!

November 1: Picture Retakes order on Leonards.com

November 2: Boys and Girls Basketball Games



Raise Craze Fundraiser Winners:

Most Acts of Kindness:

1st Place: Ms. Fletcher's 3rd Grade class with 123

2nd Place: Ms. Villarreal's 1st Grade class with 91

3rd Place: Ms. Austin's 1st Grade class with 76

4th Place: Ms. Stewart's 3rd Grade class with 70

5th Place: Ms. Ziegenfuss' 4th Grade class with 60

6th Place: Ms. Hanson's Kindergarten class with 59

***Our school completed 1,181 Acts of Kindness!

Top Monetary Donations:

1st Place: Ms. Merwin's Kindergarten class with \$2,480

2nd Place: Ms. Austin's 1st Grade class with \$2,405

3rd Place: Ms. Stewart's 3rd Grade class with \$2,386

4th Place: Ms. DiGregorio's 1st Grade class with \$2,230

5th Place: Ms. Hanson's Kindergarten class with \$1,555

6th Place: Mr. Ross' Pre-K class with \$1,525

***Our school raised \$32,381 in donations!

Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year, Rookie Teacher of the Year and School-Related Employee of the Year!








Teacher of the Year, Ms. Wendi Allen! Ms. Allen is our Media Specialist this year, but you may know her from her time as a fifth-grade teacher here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School. She led our Battle of the Books team to victory last year and serves as our Girls Basketball Team Coach! Ever need a book recommendation? She is the person to ask!

Rookie Teacher of the Year, Ms. Erin Harper! Ms. Harper is one of our incredible third-grade teachers! One stroll down the blue hallway and you will see incredible student work hanging on the wall. If you listen, you will hear the sound of learning and excitement in the classroom. Her passion for education is contagious-just ask any of her students!

School-Related Employee of the Year, Mrs. Danie Waler! Mrs. Waler is one of our Guidance LEA Clerk. You may recognize her voice from the morning announcements or her smile from the Front Desk. If you have a problem, she will help you solve it!



Character Counts Week October 17-21, 2022

Monday 10/17	Tuesday 10/18	Wednesday 10/19	Thursday 10/20	Friday 10/21
No School 	Wear Purple or Green for Citizenship & Responsibility  	Wear Orange for Fairness 	Wear Red or Blue for Caring & Trustworthy  	Wear Yellow for Respect 

Red Ribbon Week October 24-28, 2022

"Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free"

Monday 10/24	<u>Proud to Be Drug Free!</u> Wear red to help kickoff Red Ribbon Week!
Tuesday 10/25	<u>"HATS OFF" to a Healthy Life!</u> Hat Day: Wear your favorite hat 
Wednesday 10/26	 <u>TEAM UP Against Drugs!</u> Sports Day: Wear your favorite team spirit wear
Thursday 10/27	<u>Drugs are WACKY!</u> Wacky Tacky Day: Wear mismatched clothing
Friday 10/28	<u>Shade out drugs</u> Sunglasses Day: wear sunglasses to school 

Fire Prevention Month:

On Wednesday, Oct. 5th, our Kindergarten through 1st grade students participated in Fire Safety awareness during Prime-Time Wednesday! 😊 This is part of National Fire Prevention Month. We encourage all families to discuss how to stay safe! Click on the link below for Home Fire Prevention & Safety Tips from the American Red Cross! 🙌 [Home Fire Prevention & Safety Tips](#) | [American Red Cross](#)



Volunteers Opportunities: You are always needed and appreciated

Come and join the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

Otis A. Mason PTO: Please like and follow us on Facebook at **OtisMasonPTO** for news and updates. We love to see what our students are up to in the school and community. It is a great way to show and share! Our next PTO meeting: **October 24th at 3:30pm in the Media Center.** Email the PTO with questions at otismasonpto@gmail.com

PTO Upcoming Events: PTO is sponsoring many fun-filled events this school year. Please consider attending and/or volunteering on these special nights! Come on down: **Boo Grams** on sale throughout October, **Chick-fil-A Spirit Night** on October 14th, **Trunk or Treat** on October 27th.

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) needs your help!

Otis A. Mason SAC: You are invited to our monthly SAC meetings **the second Tuesday of the month: Tomorrow October 11, November 8, and December 13 at 3:30pm in the Media Center.** The Student Advisory Committee participates in school improvement planning including the approval and usage of School Recognition Funds and addressing the needs discovered by our Needs Assessment Survey. Come support our school, our community, and our children!

Become an Essential Volunteer at our School

Volunteer Access: We welcome parents, grandparents, and all friends of the community to volunteer here on our campus! Please fill-out this Essential Volunteer Form: [Essential Volunteer form.docx](#) and turn it in to your child's teacher. In order to be an approved volunteer, please submit your background check here: www.keepntrack.com/apply. Remember to always bring your photo ID whenever on our campus. Thank you for your support!

Donations Requested: Can you help?

ART ROOM: Mrs. C wanted to THANK YOU for your donations so far! The only item she still needs is **EGG CARTONS** that can be reused as paint palettes.

CLINIC: Nurse Johna needs individual **bottles of water** donated to our clinic.

LEARNING LAB: Mrs. G has some requests for our computer lab:

Tissues	Hole Punch
Starbursts and Gummy Bears	Copy paper
Notebook Dividers	Pole Lamp
Quart and Gallon-sized Ziploc bags	Dry-Erase Boards

Progress Monitoring with F.A.S.T.

As many of you are aware, we have adopted new state standards called B.E.S.T. standards. Last year, we implemented the English and Language Arts B.E.S.T standards. This year, we have added the new math B.E.S.T Standards and we have begun using a new state testing tool – FAST, which stands for Florida Assessment of Student Thinking. The first of three FAST tests began in early September. There will be a total of three administered during the year: Progress Monitoring/PM1, Progress Monitoring/PM 2, and PM3, which is summative. By now, many of you have received FAST parent reports. Pre-K through 2nd-grade students' parents' received copies of the report. Parents of 3rd through 5th grade students will access the report via Home Access Center (HAC). If your child scored a level 1 or 2 on the FAST, **do not panic** but make sure you attend your Parent/Teacher Conference (10/10-10/31). The test assesses students on end-of-year expectations. It is expected that students would not be scoring high on the assessment as we are teaching the standards during the school year. However, it helps the teacher, and the parent, pinpoint areas to focus on. The parent-teacher conference is the best tool for the next step for student success.

Thank you, Manatees!

Words cannot express the **magnitude of our gratitude** for the members of our community who participated in Raise Craze this school year. Together we completed **1,181** acts of kindness and raised **\$32,381** for our school. We are so proud to be in this community with all of you. Students were invigorated each morning when they heard which classes were in the lead. Acts of kindness FILLED our hallways. The photos of students being kind warmed our hearts and inspired others. THANK YOU for your support and for sharing your child with us. It is so great to be a Manatee.

