



# OMES at-a-Glance

## News for Otis A. Mason Families

January 2023



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Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal  
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### Manatee Highlight: A Word from our ILC, Mrs. Amy Borie

Hello Mason Families,

My name is Amy Borie. I am the instructional Literacy Coach and MTSS/RTI Coordinator at Otis Mason Elementary School. I am a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in Reading and Elementary Education. I also have degree from the University of North Florida in Educational Leadership. This year marks my 21<sup>st</sup> year as an educator. I love my role as an ILC at Mason. Supporting all our manatees, both teachers and students, makes my job so meaningful!

*Are you looking for tips to strengthen your student as a reader? One way is by building reading stamina! Please read below!*



#### Building Reading Stamina

Having stamina for something means being able to stick with something for periods of time. This stamina, or endurance, builds strength. Stamina can apply to lots of different areas, such as exercise or painting. It can also apply to reading. Teachers often think about a student's reading stamina. Reading stamina is a child's ability to focus and read independently for long-ish periods of time without being distracted or without distracting others. Reading stamina is something that parents can help students develop. Here's how:

1. Vary the way the reading is done. Parents can think about this in terms of having their child "read to himself, read to someone, and listen to reading." Some combination of the three should make up the reading time, especially for new or struggling readers.
2. Choose "just right" books. If your child is at a stage of being able to read alone, help him choose books that he is able to read independently. This means he should be able to decode almost every word in the book correctly. In this situation, avoid using books that are too difficult to read alone. If your child will be reading with you, choose books that are lively and engaging.
3. Set reasonable goals. Most toddlers and preschoolers find it difficult to sit for long periods of time, even with the most engaging book! When starting out, limit book time to just a few minutes and work up from there. For elementary aged readers, consider starting with 10-15 minutes of reading time, and work up from there. Add a few minutes to your reading time every week or so.
4. Celebrate progress. Without getting too caught up on the number of minutes spent reading, celebrate the time that is spent reading. Share your favorite parts of books read, plan the next visit to the library, and share progress with other family members.

Spending longer periods of time reading means fewer interruptions and more time reading what you love. As your child moves into higher grades, having reading stamina will help your child navigate the longer texts and assignments. Using these tips can help develop more stamina in your reader. **Source:**

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

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

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. The focus for the month of January is RESPECT. Why is respect so important? Respect 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 respectful member of the community.**

- **How can we make teaching manners fun?** Model and teach your child good manners with a Fancy Tea Party Night or by hosting a dinner with friends and family. Use real-life examples as teachable moments.
- **Respect your child by letting them problem solve their issues first.** When appropriate, allow your child to solve their own problems first. Students really appreciate the opportunity to problem solve.
- **Some things never change: Follow the Golden Rule!** Empathy is so important! Coach your child to imagine how their words and actions affect others.
- **Show respect with your language:** Children will follow your lead so let them hear positive, respectful language especially in times of conflict.
- **Highlight and respect differences in our world.** Show your child the glorious tapestry all different cultures create when we come together as one world! All people share a common humanity and yet we are spectacularly different. Let's celebrate it!
- **How does respect look...?** ...in the car? ...in the home? ...in the hallway? ...in school? ... with family? ... with people we don't know? ...in a restaurant? Always have a discussion with your child about how to show respect, even when it may be challenging.

**Have questions about Character Counts? Contact our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Holtz at [Katherine.holtz@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Katherine.holtz@stjohns.k12.fl.us). We are always available to support you with character education.**



## PTO Thanks and Updates:

We just wanted to give a huge shout out to our AMAZING families that continue to support our students, teachers, and staff. We couldn't do it without the contributions both financially and with your very valuable time. The holiday shop was a huge success and watching the children shop for their loved ones was priceless. As we get ready for the second half of the school year, we want to finish strong and to do that we need your help.

- **Manatee Mall Sign-up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4ca5a629a5ff2-manatee1#/>

- Sign up for our Annual **Souper Bowl** on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4ca5a629a5ff2-2023#/>

- Our 1st ever **Boots and Bling Family Hoedown** is coming on January 27th! Buy your tickets online here:

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

Teacher Appreciation week is in May, and we want to give our staff a week to remember. If you have a service or business and would like to make a donation, please email: [otismasonpto@gmail.com](mailto:otismasonpto@gmail.com) and we will respond ASAP.

**Our next PTO meeting is January 23rd, 3:30pm, in the media center.**

Thank you again, Mason families and we look forward to a great second semester.

**Brenda Kelley**

**PTO President**

## Celebrate Literacy with Us and the SJCLPS



### ★ READER'S OATH ★

I PROMISE TO READ  
EACH DAY AND EACH NIGHT.  
I KNOW IT'S THE KEY  
TO GROWING UP RIGHT.

I'LL READ TO MYSELF,  
I'LL READ TO A CROWD.  
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE  
IF SILENT OR LOUD.

I'LL READ AT MY DESK,  
AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL,  
ON MY BEAN BAG OR BED,  
BY THE FIRE OR POOL.

EACH BOOK THAT I READ  
PUTS SMARTS IN MY HEAD,  
'CAUSE BRAINS GROW MORE THOUGHTS  
THE MORE THEY ARE FED.

SO I TAKE THIS OATH  
TO MAKE READING MY WAY  
OF FEEDING MY BRAIN  
WHAT IT NEEDS EVERY DAY.

Literacy is a gift! Join us in taking the Reader's Oath and in making reading a part of your family's everyday routine. Studies show that reading for 20 minutes every day with your child improves their skills in just about every educational facet!

Need access to more books? Check out our incredible and FREE St. Johns County Public Library System ([sjcpls.org](http://sjcpls.org)). A library card will give you access to FREE online services too.

## Join us! We're Running for Character!



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

**Where:** Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive

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 (SJCS). 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.

## 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.



## Happy New Year! Welcome back, Manatees



## OMES PUNT, PASS, KICK 2022 Hall of Fame WINNERS!

Congratulations, to the following Manatees for displaying their athleticism for the 2022 Punt, Pass, Kick Hall of Fame! Each student received a certificate and a gift.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys:

1. Owen Caldwell from Ms. Byrd 105 yds.
2. Yusif Toubaili from Ms. Thomas 100 yds.
3. Ethan Steen from Ms. Thomas 95 yds.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls:

1. Kennedy Lee from Ms. Byrd 90 yds.
2. \*Laila Pill from Ms. Thomas 85 yds.
- \*Zoe Schneider from Ms. Thomas 85 yds.
- \*NEW SCHOOL RECORD!

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys:

1. Darian Bullard from Ms. Downey 90 yds.
- Liam Lynch from Ms. Sims 90 yds.
2. Santiago Rincon from Ms. Sims 85 yds.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls:

1. Ela Smith from Ms. Ziegenfuss 80 yds.
2. \*Isabella Semanyk from Ms. Tedder 70 yds.
- \*Skylin Olds from Ms. Ziegenfuss 70 yds.
- \*NEW SCHOOL RECORD!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Boys:

1. Reece Deputy from Ms. Stewart 85 yds.
2. Aaron Flaar from Ms. Crupi 75 yds.
3. Lukasz Smith from Ms. Fletcher 70 yds.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Girls:

1. Madison Hollender from Ms. Fletcher 50 yds.
2. Maleya Jones from Ms. Crupi 45 yds.
3. Kira Dionne from Ms. Modica 40 yds.

## A Letter from our RTI/MTSS Team:

Dear OMES Families,

MTSS/RtI meeting invitations are sent via email to the parent/guardian email on file. If your child's teacher has communicated with you that they have referred your child for a possible RtI plan, you can expect to see an initial meeting invitation via email, if student data meets criteria. If your child already has an RtI plan, there are typically review meetings on a six-to-eight-week basis. When you receive an email, there is an option to participate virtually, receive a phone call, or attend in person. If you would like for the school based MTSS/RtI team to phone conference with you, you must reply to the email to request this option. If you have any questions regarding the MTSS/RtI process, please don't hesitate to reach out via email to our Instructional Literacy Coach/MTSS Coordinator, Amy Borie at [amy.borie@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:amy.borie@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

## YEARBOOKS are Coming!

BuyTheYearbook.com

Find your school or enter ID# 707513

Yearbooks are \$25.00 and are available for pre-order.

### ATTENTION PARENTS:

Recognize Your 5th Grader in the

### OTIS MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2023 Yearbook!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your 5th grader's accomplishments and memories.

Go online today to purchase and design your ad to take part in this special tradition.

Visit Leonard's Pictavo Community at

**BuyTheYearbook.com**

Find your school or enter **School ID# 707513**



**Full Page \$60**

**1/2 Page \$30**

**1/4 Page \$15**

**Ad Submission Deadline 2/14/2023**

*Leonard's* Photography | Printing | Publishing

## Important Dates:

**January 17:** SAC Meeting in the Media Center at 3:30pm

**January 18:** Report Cards live on HAC

**January 23:** PTO Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

**January 23-27:** Literati Book Fair; Celebrate Literacy Week!

**January 27:** PTO Hoedown, Family Night at 5:00pm

**February 1-7:** Celebrate Caring and Kindness Week! CANDY GRAMS for sale!

**February 2:** Progress Reports for Quarter 3

**February 4:** Character Counts! 6K/3K at Palencia

**February 6:** HURRICANE MAKE-UP DAY, there is school today.

**February 8:** Jump Rope for Heart, Kids Heart Challenge, starts today!

**February 10:** PTO Sponsored Souper Bowl

**February 14:** Valentine's Day



## Otis A. Mason Celebrates Perfect Attendance Every Quarter

Every quarter at Otis A. Mason Elementary School, we recognize, celebrate, and award all students who have perfect attendance. Every quarter is a new opportunity for your student to earn perfect attendance.

**"Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement"**

-National Center for Education Statistics

Please join us in making sure your child attends school as much as possible. If a child becomes ill or has an appointment, remember to send in a note to excuse the absence. Every minute of the school day is important to us. A student is always welcome to attend school after an appointment, even if they will only be with us for a couple hours! Some grade levels have significant math, science, reading, and writing instruction in the first and/or last 45 minutes of the day.



## We are committed to having every student at or above grade level!

The state of Florida has an ambitious goal to have every student reading at or above grade level. We here at the St. Johns County School District take this goal very seriously. Letters come home regularly to keep you informed of:

- If your child is having reading difficulties
- Which diagnostic assessments will be used to assist your child
- Which plan will be used to monitor your child's progress
- The nature of the reading instruction received by your child daily
- The nature of the targeted instruction that will be used to assist your child
- The name of the program (s) used to target instruction

These letters will inform you and encourage home-to-school communication

## Know Your Parental Rights

There have been recent legislative updates to parental rights. The highlights of which are listed below:

- The Parents' Bill of Rights (s. 1014.04 (1)(a), F.S.) states that a parent has the right to direct the education and care of his or her minor child.
- Upon written request, school districts are required to provide parents access to any material or book in a school library specified in the request (s.1006.28 (2)(d), F.S.)
- Per Rule 6A-7.0713, F.A.C. each elementary school is required to publish on its website a list of all materials maintained in the school library media center including classroom libraries.
- Parents must be informed of the district policies that are in place to provide transparency for families.
- The department's parental rights page may be found at [www.fldoe.org/ParentalRights/](http://www.fldoe.org/ParentalRights/)

For a list of SJCS District Instructional Materials and Library Media please visit:

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

## Manatee Mob Kicks Off with our Student Leaders in Action!

Our Manatee Mob Leaders started their work of spreading good character on our campus! We are so grateful for our Board Members, Council, Dance Crew, News Crew, and Buddy Crew!

Pictured: A Buddy Crew Leader reads a story to Mrs. Turner's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class



## Celebrate Literacy Week Activities January 23-27

Otis A. Mason Elementary School is excited to celebrate literacy with you. During Celebrate Literacy Week, January 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, we will have fun dress-up days for students and teachers (see below). This will also happen in conjunction with our annual Literati Book Fair.

### Celebrate Literacy Week at OMES

Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Bring out the red carpet. Wear Red and be "Well READ"

Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

Be a "Fan" of Reading (wear sports attire)

Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

"Wild" About Reading (wear animal print attire)

Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

Reading Makes You "Bright" (wear sunglasses and brightly colored attire)

Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

"Hats" Off to Reading (wear hats)

There is nothing better than sharing an adventure with your child.

**Family read aloud:** Pick a more advanced book to read aloud as a family and discuss.

**Car Books:** Check out audio books for the car too!

**D.E.A.R.:** Lastly, schedule quiet D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) times for your household to wear PJs and snuggle with a good book. Compare and contrast different books as a family around the dinner table.



St. Johns County School District

Proudly hosts

## Teacher Recruitment & Job Fairs



Teacher Recruitment and Job Fair  
Saturday, February 25, 2023  
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Nease High School Media Center

Teacher Recruitment and Job Fair  
Saturday, March 25, 2023  
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Nease High School Media Center



Live



WORK



Play

Register at: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/recruitment/jobfair/>

Must have a complete application at  
<https://www.apolitrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/>

See you there!

## Collaborative Art and Media Project Needs Your Help!

Send donated shoeboxes to school with your student or drop them off in the Front Office. Mrs. C is collecting them in the Art Room.

