



207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 547-8440 – main
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OMES at-a-Glance

News for Otis A. Mason Families
September 2023



Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Ms. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal
Ms. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal

Save the Date:

All Month: Raise Craze Fundraiser

FUNDRAISING THROUGH
KINDNESS
RAISE CRAZE™

All month: Character Counts! Pillar of FAIRNESS

Sept 14: Boy Scouts of America Parent Night 6:30pm

Sept 15: Volunteers needed for book scanning at 9am

Sept 15: Rosh Hashanah Begins; May you have a good and sweet new year!

Sept 17: Constitution Day

Sept 19: National IT Professionals Appreciation Day:
Thank you, Mr. Peterson!

Sept 21: SAC Meeting in the Media Center at 3:30pm

Sept 25: PTO Meeting in the Media Center at 3:30pm

Sept 25-29: Celebrate Freedom Week

October: Fire Safety Month: Talk to your kids about fire safety; Character Counts! Pillar of RESPONSIBILITY; Boo Grams for Sale

Oct 2: National Custodial Worker's Appreciation Day

Oct 3: Fall Picture Day with Leonard's-Wear your best outfit and smile!

Oct 6: National Athletic Staff Appreciation Day

Sept 15- Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month



Character Highlight: Fairness



Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. This month's pillar is FAIRNESS. Why is "FAIRNESS" 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 Fair. How can we do that TOGETHER?**

- **Introduction:** 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.**
- **Play by the rules:** Teach your child the value and importance of rules and procedures. Guide them through examples when playing organized sports, or during game night at home. Be a good example for your child as they watch you follow rules and procedures at school, at the doctor's office, in the grocery store, or on the road. How do rules and procedures keep us safe? If you disagree with a rule or procedure what is the proper way to go about change?
- **Take turns and Share:** Taking turns and sharing are actions that can be applied everywhere. How can your child take turns with household chores and responsibilities? How can we make the most of teachable moments each day?
- **Be open minded and listen to others:** Show your child the benefit of listening and accepting others. The importance of getting to know someone before making judgements is SO important. Let us model fair and accepting attitudes for our children.

The Character Counts! program is taught to students during their school day. Please check out the curriculum, themes, and activities online at:

<https://ccstjohns.com/>

OMES Reminders:



May I call into the classroom to speak to my teacher/child?

Our teachers are hard at work with your child and many others. Unfortunately, you cannot speak to your child or the child's teacher unless you have an appointment or an emergency. If there is an emergency, please call the Front Office at 904-547-8440 and we will assist you with expediency.

What do I do if I miss a call from the school?

Please listen to the voicemail before you call the school back. We will need to know WHO called you in order to get you connected. We are happy to assist you with this.

May I email the teacher excuses and dismissal changes?

Please send electronic absence notes and dismissal changes online through our Otis A. Mason website. There is a link to our [Dismissal Change Form](#) as well as the mes@stjohns.k12.fl.us email for absence notes. Please use our dismissal change form to inform all staff of your child's dismissal. This is especially important if there is a guest teacher in your child's classroom that day. Paper copies of excuse notes will be accepted and can be sent in your child's communication folder to the teacher.

May I text/call my child on their cell during the school day?

Per the electronic device policy of the St. Johns County School District: All electronic devices should be off and away throughout the school day. Please do not contact your child on a cell phone throughout the school day. If you have an emergency and need to reach your child, please call the Front Office at 904-547-8440.

May I have lunch in the Café with my child?

We apologize for the inconvenience, but we are still not able to host families in the cafeteria during student lunch times. If you would like to volunteer in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher. If you would like to check out your child from school for any reason, please let your child's teacher know in advance and provide an excuse note upon your child's return.

May I bring dessert into class for my child's birthday?

We are so excited for your child's birthday, and we are excited to celebrate it with them. Bringing class snacks and desserts, while appreciated, is not required. If you would like to bring something in for the class, please arrange it with your child's teacher first. Food items are typically served during lunch or recess to minimize mess and prioritize educational time in the classroom. We politely request healthy options alongside decadent ones. Also, please be mindful of allergies in the classroom. Reach out to your child's teacher to inquire about these prior to purchasing items.

Where do I go if my child lost something?

Students should check lost and found in the cafeteria daily (they walk by it to go to and from lunch every day). If your child's name is on it, we will return it to your child promptly. With that said, please label all of your child's belongings: lunch boxes, water bottles, backpacks, jackets, etc.

Raise Craze: Choose KIND today!

RAISE
CRAZE

LET'S PLAY
KINDNESS BINGO! ♥

Log 3 AOK	Send 5 Emails	Raise \$50
Receive 2 Donations (\$10 min each)	Register & Log 1 AOK!	Log 10 AOK
Send 10 Emails	Log 5 AOK	Raise \$100

EARN FUN PRIZES!

Receive a prize from the Treasure Box for every square you complete!

Earn a Happy Face Sticker if a teacher or staff member "caught" you being kind!

If you complete the Full Card, you'll receive a Mop Topper!



SCHOOL-WIDE PRIZES!

- ★ 50 AOK per Class
Shine Bright with Kindness! Wear Neon & Sunglasses
- ★ \$1,000 Raised per Class
Kindness Rocks! Dress Like Rock Stars
- ★ Top AOK (Quality Counts!) & Top Dollar Student per Grade
Medallion + Special Lunch with Principal!
- ★ Top AOK & Top Dollar Class Overall
Pizza Party + \$100 Amazon Gift Card for Teacher for Supplies!



THE GRAND FINALE!

If we hit our school-wide goal of \$35,000, our principal, Mrs. Keaton will do something CRAZE-...like, maybe let us DUCT TAPE HER TO THE CAFETERIA WALL???

Register Today! my.raisecraze.com/A1N49U8/



FUNDRAISING THROUGH
KINDNESS
RAISE CRAZE



REGISTER HERE: my.raisecraze.com/A1N49U8

GOAL: \$35,000 DATES: September 1 - September 25

WELCOME OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

- 1 Register & create your donation page!
- 2 Select 3-5 Acts of Kindness to complete for others. Yay KINDNESS!
- 3 Invite your friends & family to donate & start spreading kindness!

If you are under the age of 13, a parent must help you setup your account! :-)

Emails will never be shared or used for marketing purposes. You can also share via social or text!

WHAT IS RAISE CRAZE?

Raise Craze is an online platform enabling participants to set up secure, custom websites where they request donations via email, text, and social.

During the fundraiser, participants pay it forward by completing Acts of Kindness for others. A great way to learn the value of gratitude. Spend time serving not selling!

OUR GOAL IS \$35,000 FOR...

- Empowering Learning: By fundraising, we will provide better resources, like A/R and additional computers, to create an engaging learning environment for students.
- Growth: Through fundraising, we will support our resource teams, foster teamwork and creativity beyond the classroom.
- Enhanced Spaces: Funds raised will improve facilities, ensuring a safe and comfortable school experience for both our students and teachers.

Questions? Contact Brenda Kelley otismasonpto@gmail.com

Leonard's: Picture Day is October 3rd Use Code C619782

Leonard's
**Picture Day
IS ALMOST HERE!**



ORDER NOW ONLINE

CLICK HERE ➔

www.leonards.com

f /LeonardsPhotography

(800) 215-4852

📷 /leonards_photo

Leonard's: Yearbooks for sale NOW Use Code 715026



Is your child joining a club at OMES?:

Check out our extra-curricular opportunities:

Soccer Shots on Mondays:

<https://www.soccershots.com/>

Dance on Fridays: <https://www.showtimeusa.net/>

Girls Basketball Tryouts with Coach Allen: September 14th 3-4pm

Boys Basketball Tryouts with Coach Allen: September 18th 3-4pm.

For Soccer Shots and Dance, please sign up with the third-party (these are not sponsored by Otis Mason).

Please make sure you complete a dismissal change to let us know when your child will be participating in a sport or club.

Meet our Instructional Support Team:



MRS. HUNTING



Hi! My name is Kathleen Hunting, and I am so excited to be a Mason Manatee! This year is my 13th year teaching. I have had the opportunity to teach 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th grade at Osceola Elementary School in addition to serving as a District Reading Interventionist for the past two years. This year I plan to work closely with the PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade teachers and students. Aside from work, I am a mom of a three-year-old son, William. We are a Disney family and prefer to spend our free time at "The most magical place on Earth." I can't wait to get to know my Mason family and help to spread some magic and joy each and every day!

MISS FORD



Hello! My name is Torrey Ford, and I am thrilled to be serving you! This year, I will be specifically serving our Resource team, and 2nd & 3rd grade students and teachers. Over the years, I have taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades! While I started my teaching career in Duval county 23 years ago, this is actually my second career! Prior to teaching, I worked in the Social Work arena, specifically working with abused and neglected children in the foster care system. Some of my favorite things include anything related to the beach, traveling, 70s & 80s music, and spending time with friends and family! I'm super-stoked to get our groovy year started and look forward to working with you and your student's this year!

MRS. JAFFA



Hello! My name is Dee Jaffa and I am so excited to kick off the new school year with everyone! Mostly, I look forward to serving you! This year, my focus will be on supporting the 4th and 5th grade PLTs! I have been in the field of education since 2007 and was inspired to teach as a young child! In the past, I have taught Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades! In addition to education, I spent some of my career working at a family shelter. If I am not at school, you will probably find me enjoying time with my family or somewhere outside riding my bike, walking, or running! I recently took up Ju-jitsu and this year, I am determined to learn how to surf! Looking forward to an awesome year! See you in the classroom!

ChildFind helps find special children:



Do you have any concerns about your child's ...

- Speaking
- Understanding?
- Moving or playing?
- Seeing or hearing?
- Getting along with other children?
- Learning and paying attention?
- Self-feeding, dressing, toileting?

ChildFind provides FREE information and guidance regarding community programs for children with special needs. They also provide professional consultations for families. In addition, ChildFind can assist with screening in the areas of communication, motor development, vision, hearing, and preschool readiness. Finally, ChildFind can place your child with special needs in the appropriate exceptional student education program or early intervention program.

Extended Day Spots Still Available:

Otis A. Mason Extended Day is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We offer homework help along with snacks, arts and crafts, games, outdoor play and activities. All registration forms can be found on the [Otis A. Mason website](https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us). For more information, please call Melinda Stevens at 904-547-8449 or email her at

Melinda.stevens@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Otis A. Mason: Citizenship Matters:

The St. Johns County School District supports our school with educating students on important days such as Heroes' Day, Constitution Day, and Celebrate Freedom Week.

- **Heroes' day on September 11:** Our school participated in the Nation Moment of Silence at 8:46am to recognize and honor those whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001. We hope you will support our efforts to teach your child about that day by speaking with them in an age-appropriate way. There are many free resources available. [Common Sense Media](#) will help you choose a documentary or book that is right for your family.
- **Constitution Day on September 17:** We celebrate Constitution Day here at school on September 17th. This day commemorates the signing of our Constitution on September 17, 1787. Check out the [National Archives free resources on Constitution Day](#). Why is the Constitution important to our country? Why is the Constitution important to your family?
- **Celebrate Freedom Week is September 25th-29th:** This year Celebrate Freedom Week will focus on the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence. Check out the SJCS website for more resources:
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ss/cdcfw/>

What is an Intake Conference?

An "intake conference" is a **parent-teacher conference** that takes place during the beginning of the year. Your child's teacher will be reaching out to you to schedule your conference. This conference is an INCREDIBLE opportunity to work with your child's teacher.

Discuss your child's strengths, goals, struggles, concerns, and needs. Please share openly and honestly with your child's teacher **what you are seeing at home** and allow the teacher the same opportunity to **share what they are seeing in school**. Teachers will have collected data for you to discuss regarding your child's academic needs.

Research shows that family involvement in school-based learning activities is correlated with improved student outcomes in multiple facets. The home-school partnership efforts lead to better understanding and improve the student's learning situation (improved results in motivation, self-regulation, positive attitude and student learning and achievement). *

*Education Hub, Dr. Vicki Hargraves

Intake conferences will take place throughout September and October. We can't wait to speak with you regarding your amazing and unique child.



CARD & FDLRS-MDC Satellite Clinics

10:00-6:00 PM

8/1/2023

9/5/2023

10/2/2023

11/7/2023

12/5/2023

**St. Johns
County**

The UF-Jacksonville Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and the UF-Jacksonville Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System Multi-Disciplinary Center (FLDRS-MDC) offer clinics to outlying counties in order to more effectively serve their constituents.

Sign up for a consultative appointment with clinicians who specialize in child psychology, behavior therapy, academic interventions, Autism Screeners, Transition, and more. Appointments are at no cost to the family.

Location: Southeast Library, 6670 US-1, Saint Augustine, FL 32086.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact Jennifer.O'Brien@jax.ufl.edu.

