



OMES at-a-Glance

News for Otis A. Mason Families

November 2023



207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 547-8440 – main (904) 547-8445 – fax

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

Manatee Highlight: Our Fifth Grade Team



We are so excited to showcase our fifth-grade team this month! Pictured above from left to right is : Ms. Thompson, Ms. Steen, Ms. Veihdeffer, Ms. Byrd, and Ms. Thomas. Not pictured would be our fifth-grade Science teacher, Mr. Fairchild, our fifth-grade tutor, Ms. McManus, and our fifth-grade paraprofessional Ms. Charles. Be sure to read your fifth-grader's daily communications about academic progress and what you can do at home to best support your child academically. 5th grade is a challenging year and there are high expectations for your child's success. Please use this link to view the 5th grade curriculum maps for Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, and Physical Education:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>

Please encourage your student to READ, READ, READ! There are so many free, available resources at our public library, check it out:

<https://sjcpls.org/>

Important Year-End Dates for fifth graders:

- Sea World Field Trip: **May 20th**
- 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony: **May 23rd**
- 5th Grade Celebration, Grad Walk, Yearbook Signing: **May 24th**

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 for your child. Allow them to see how important of a part they play in your household.
- **Discuss good citizenship at school:** how can parents and students contribute to our Otis A. Mason community to make the school a better place? You are an important part of our school.
- **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! For more Character Counts! curriculum and ideas, check out the website:

<https://ccstjohns.com/>



PTO Raise Craze Results:

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!

Raise Craze Finals

Total Raised \$17, 298

1,428 Acts of Kindness

TOP DOLLAR RAISED CLASS:

Ms. Nichols' Kindergarten Class - \$1, 457

TOP AOK CLASS WAS:

Ms. Ziegenfuss' 4th Grade Class - 146

Top AOK Classes

1st Place: Ms. Ziegenfuss' 4th Grade Class

2nd Place: Ms. Steen's 5th Grade Class

3rd Place: Ms. Nichols' Kindergarten Class

4th Place: Ms. Johnson's 4th Grade Class

5th Place: Ms. Austin's 1st Grade Class

6th place: Ms. Hanson's Kindergarten Class

Top Dollar Classes

1st Place: Ms. Nichols' Kindergarten Class

2nd Place: Ms. Jones' 2nd Grade Class

3rd Place: Ms. Johnson's 4th Grade Class

4th Place: Ms. Ziegenfuss' 4th Grade Class

5th Place: Ms. Sykes' 3rd Grade Class

6th place: Ms. Babineau's Kindergarten Class

Technology Corner:

Need help accessing one of our services online?
Remember that most online resources for school can be accessed through our website using CLEVER:

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

Click CLEVER and enter your student's s# and password.

SCHOOLOGY: Stjohnsschools.schoolology.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

Applications are good for three years at every school in SJC.

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/>

Join Us!

WHERE: MCDONALDS (37 EPIC BLVD)
WHEN: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
TIME: 4:00PM-7PM

The teacher who has the most students attend will win FREE Happy Meals for their entire class! PLUS PTO will get 30% back from your purchase!

McTeacher's Night

Otis A. Mason Elementary School

Holiday Shop

December 4th-8th, 2023
During school hours



Mason Sweatshirt PRE-Order Form

ALL SWEATSHIRT ORDERS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 27TH, NO EXCEPTIONS.
WE WILL NOT BE ORDERING EXTRA TO SELL.

MY SPIRITWEAR ORDER:

NAME	
EMAIL	
PHONE	
STUDENT NAME	
TEACHER	GRADE

Adult Black Hoodie Peace Love Manatees S-XL \$30	Qty	\$\$\$
<input type="radio"/> S <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> XL		
Adult Black Hoodie 2XL & 3XL \$35		
<input type="radio"/> 2X <input type="radio"/> 3X		
Youth Black Hoodie Peace Love Manatees \$20		
<input type="radio"/> XS <input type="radio"/> S <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> XL		
TOTAL		

PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ORDER

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Make checks out to Otis Mason PTO.

SPIRIT WEAR HOODIE



DELIVERY METHOD



We will deliver items to your child's classroom.

TO ORDER ONLINE AND PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD, PLEASE SCAN QR CODE. YOU DO NOT NEED TO SEND BACK THIS FORM.



LIKE US at facebook.com/OtisMasonPTO for the latest information and email us at otismasonpto@gmail.com for any questions!

2023 Punt, Pass, & Kick Hall of Fame

Grade 5 Boys

TB=Tiebreak

- 1 Adam Belloni 75 yds. (Steen)
- 2 Carson Mitchell 70 yds. (Thompson)
- 3(***TB**) Angel Pagan 95 yds. (Veihdeffer)

Grade 5 Girls

- 1 Skylin Olds 90 yds (Veihdeffer)
- 2 Ela Smith 60 yds. (Byrd)
- 3 (***TB**) Olivia Simmons 85 yds. (Byrd)

Grade 4 Boys

- 1 Lukasz Smith 75 yds. (Ziegenfuss)
- 2(***TB**) Lanell Rockmore 90 yds. (Blanton)
- 3(***TB**) Andrew Steen 65 yds. (Terlouw)

Grade 4 Girls

- 1 (***TB**) Dakota Schneider 45 yds. (Kosofsky)
- 2 (***TB**) Maleya Jones 45 yds. (Johnson)
- 3 (***TB**) Kalina Buening 45 yds (Ziegenfuss)

Grade 3 Boys

- 1 Liam Burham 65 yds (Paesch)
- 2 August Marks 60 yds, (Paesch)
- 3 (***TB**) Hudson Thaxton 75 yds. (Paesch)

Grade 3 Girls

- 1 Rayna Doucette 30 yds. (Veitinger)
- 2 Israa Barakat 25 yds. (Sykes)
- 3 (***TB**) Dusti Hagan) 20 yds. (McMichael)

Important Dates:

November 22-24: No School-Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27: PTO Meeting at 3:30 in the Media Center

November 28: Pizza Hut Spirit Night

December 4-8: Holiday Shop (Volunteers needed)

December 12: Virtual Art Show begins online! Check out our website

December 14: SAC Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

December 19: Night of the Arts from 5-8pm, enjoy an evening of music and art!

December 21: Early release at 1:45pm; last day of school before winter break; End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester;

December 22-January 7: Winter break

January 8: Students resume class-back to school!

January 18: Club Photos with Leonard's, wear your club shirt or uniform



Put the FUN in FUNDRAISING



Show your support for

OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY

Tuesday - November 28, 2023

Fundraiser Code: P3

To ensure your purchase counts toward your goal - Online orders enter this code in the coupon code section. In store & phone orders mention code upon ordering.

ORDER ONLINE @ PIZZAHUT.COM

Find participating locations at [Hutamerican.com/fundraisers](https://hutamerican.com/fundraisers)

Fundraising event is only valid at Hut American-owned Pizza Hut locations on the day specified. Fundraiser is excluded from purchase of alcohol, tax, delivery fee tip and future orders. ©2023 Pizza Hut, LLC.

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 the Spring (even if you missed the original Picture Day and retakes).

Spring Picture Day will be February 15th.

Club Picture Day is January 18th.

To order pictures, please go to:

www.leonards.com/photoprepay and "Find Our School"

To order a yearbook, please go to the following website:



Does your child struggle with reading?

The UF New Worlds Reading program may be available to help your family.

<https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/new-worlds/>



new worlds reading
UP | Lastinger Center for Learning, University of Florida
SCHOLASTIC

Reading shapes who we are.

Help your kids read on grade level with Florida's FREE at-home book delivery program.

- VPK - 5th grade students can apply to receive FREE books and reading activities every month from this state-created program.*
- Students can choose books that match their interests.
- Books and activities are available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and braille.

*Visit newworldsreading.com to see eligibility requirements.

Families can apply today:
newworldsreading.com/enroll



Title I information and FAQ

What does it mean to be a "Title I" School? Otis A. Mason is considered a "Title I" school for the 2023-2024 school year which means that our school will be receiving federal grant money to help support our low-income families and to improve our community partnership.

Is there anything that I, a OMES family member, need to do?

No, there is nothing required from our families. We do hope to improve our family engagement this school year so please come on out to one of our many community events. You are always welcome to attend monthly SAC and PTO meetings. We invite you to communicate regularly with your child's teacher. Lastly, check out one of family fun nights: spirit nights, Night of the Arts, Book Fair, school dance, et cetera.

Where can I read more about Title I? I am so glad you asked!

Here are some documents to help you understand what our school will be up to this school year and how we can work together to better connect our home and school community! You may find them all on the SAC and Title I portion of our website:

[Parent-Student Compact](#)

[Parent-Student Compact \(en Espanol\)](#)

[Parent Right to Know](#)

[Parent Right to Know \(en Espanol\)](#)

[Principal Family Engagement Plan](#)

[Principal Family Engagement Plan \(en Espanol\)](#)

Do you have more questions regarding Title I?

Please contact our Title I Parent Liaison, Mrs. Danie Waler at 904-547-8440.



otis A. MASON
FAMILY SPONSORED BANNERS ARE HERE!

	
	
	

SOLD



\$150 for a 4' x 2' banner displayed on fence!
Choose from PPU or BUS LOOP
Email Otismasonsponsorships@gmail.com to secure your banner TODAY!

Night of the Arts SAVE THE DATE:



NIGHT OF THE ARTS FESTIVAL
Make your Calendars
Date: December 19th, 2023
Time: 5 PM - 7 PM
Location: Otis A. Mason Cafeteria

Prepare for a sensational fusion of music and art at Otis A. Mason! Join us for a night of creativity and harmony as our talented music department takes the stage while the art department unveils a dazzling collection of student artwork, all beautifully framed and available for purchase to support our budding artists. Save the date on your calendar for this incredible event!"



Play Reading Bingo

Instructions: Every time you read a book and complete an activity on your bingo card, cross off a square. Try to cross off all the squares by the end of the school year!

Read a nonfiction book	Read a fiction book	Learn a new word from a book	Read outside	Read with a silly voice
Read a book with someone else	Read in your pajamas	Learn a new fact from a book	Draw a picture of your favorite book character	Read to a pet or stuffed animal
Read on the weekend	Re-read a book	new worlds reading	Read before breakfast	Read a book you checked out from the library
Draw a new cover for a book	Read on a rainy day	Make up a new ending for a book	Read a book with an animal in it	Read out loud
Read under the table	Read in your bed	Read 3 days in a row	Tell someone about a book you read	Read a book in a new genre

Happy reading! For more activity ideas, visit newworldsreading.com.
Share your board with us on social media! #NewWorldsReading

ONCE A MANATEE, ALWAYS A MANATEE. Later this month as we settle in for Thanksgiving, one of our very own will be starting the next chapter of her life. MICHELE GATCHELL will be retiring at the end of the month. Mrs. Gatchell has had a career with us spanning over 30 years! She began her career at Osceola in 1992 and became a Cafeteria Manager in 2006 when she joined our Otis A. Mason family. After many years and thousands of students and many more meals later, she is ready to hang up her apron. Michele has been a rock at Otis A. Mason for the past 17 years. Despite our change and growth, in spite of the menu changes, supply chain issues, and ever-changing job demands, she has overseen our cafeteria and fed our ever-growing student body. She has nurtured the talents of countless food service staffers. Her steadfast leadership and warmth helped nourish our student body. While we will miss her uplifting presence every day, we wish Michele all the best in her well-deserved retirement. Thank you, Mrs. Gatchell, for making our Food Service family strong and for touching so many lives. You brought so much joy to all of our days. You will always be part of our family!





Congratulations, Spelling Bee Participants!

Pictured: Two winners of each class Spelling Bee that competed in the school Bee.

Our School Spelling Bee winners: 1st Place Ava Alcorn
2nd Place Juliet Singletary

Activities for Families

November is Florida Family Engagement in Education Month!

When schools and families work together to support learning, everyone benefits.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			¹ Visit your local library and read together for National Family Literacy Day .	² Plan a day with no electronics. Consider books, board games, or puzzles.	³ Talk with your family about community service and help out at a local organization.	⁴ Review and talk to your child about today's homework.
⁵ Praise your child for their efforts rather than their abilities.	⁶ Join your school's PTO and SAC committees.	⁷ Take time to participate in an activity at your child's school.	⁸ Teach your child a new skill for. National Parents as Teachers Day	⁹ Listen to and discuss different types of music with your child.	¹⁰ Visit a local park or another attraction and talk about the experience.	¹¹ Veteran's Day Talk to your child about why we honor those who courageously serve our country.
¹² Invite your child to help plan meals, write the grocery list, and shop.	¹³ Take time to share kind efforts with each other as a family. World Kindness Day	¹⁴ Start a conversation with family members at the dinner table.	¹⁵ Explore career interests with your child for National Career Development Day	¹⁶ Contact your child's school to schedule a day to volunteer. National Parental Involvement Day	¹⁷ Sneak a note into your child's backpack or lunch box as a token of encouragement.	¹⁸ Start a family tradition to bond and keep the family connected.
¹⁹ Walk, stretch, or meditate with your child to prepare for the week ahead.	²⁰ Talk with your child's teacher about his/her progress in school.	²¹ Host a pretend TV or radio talk show and take turns "interviewing" each other.	²² Commit to staying involved in your child's education throughout the year.	²³ Thanksgiving Day Share around the table what you are grateful for.	²⁴ As a family, learn more about recycling efforts and pledge to reduce, reuse, and recycle.	²⁵ Pick a home improvement project and work together.
²⁶ Flip through old family photos and tell stories about your family's history.	²⁷ Read a book, article, magazine, or newspaper with your child.	²⁸ Talk to your child about his or her favorite subject in school.	²⁹ Browse the news and talk about current events with your child.	³⁰ Explore resources to assist your child with homework and in the classroom.		

Free Family Movie Night at the Amp

Please grab a can of food (or more) to donate as your entry to this exciting FREE Family Movie Night.

Which movie? ELF

When? Friday, December 15th

Doors Open at 5:30pm/Movie starts at 7pm

Free? Yes, free entry! All kids get FREE popcorn and hot cocoa.
First 300 kids get a FREE t-shirt too.

