



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

January 2024

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
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Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Mrs. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal
Ms. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal

Manatee Highlight: Kindergarten



Pictured from Left to Right: Mrs. Hanson, Ms. Merwin, Mrs. Lepera, Mrs. Babineau, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Strauss.

Our Kindergarten Team is OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD FANTASTIC! They explore with your children the stellar world of school every day. It is so important to us that we work together as a team. We asked our Kindergarten team,

“What are the most important things that you want your parents to know?”

- Read to your child nightly! Make it a routine.
- Practice your sight words with your child. (There are so many sight word activities and games!)
- Count with your student at every opportunity.
- Encourage self-awareness and independence.
- Help us teach responsibility with belongings.
- Remember, we LOVE your child too!

“What are the best resources for Kindergarten parents?”

- FREE classes and resources at our public library. www.sjcpls.org
- Lexia, DreamBox, and Reading Eggs on our website (Clever).
- Generation Genius for Science: <https://www.generationgenius.com/>
- Accelerated Reader: <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/>

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!
- **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 us! We are always available to support you with character education. At Otis A. Mason, YOUR Character Counts!



Title I information and FAQ

What does it mean to be a "Title I" School? 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, an 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 our many family fun nights.

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. Necesitas este mensaje en Espanol? Llamanos a 904-547-8440. Se habla Espanol!

Celebrate Literacy with READING!



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). A library card will give you access to FREE online services too.

Join us! We're Running for Character!

11TH ANNUAL

CHARACTER
COUNTS! In St. Johns
County

6K3K

RUN • WALK

Saturday, February 3, 2024
9 A.M.

Palencia Elementary School



Register by January 5, 2024, to receive a race t-shirt
and other goodies from sponsoring businesses
and community organizations!



PRESENTING
SPONSOR

REGISTER AT
RACESMITH.COM



Where: Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive

Registration forms and more information are available online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/StAugustine/CHARACTERCOUNTsinStJohnsCountySixPillars6K3KRunWalk>

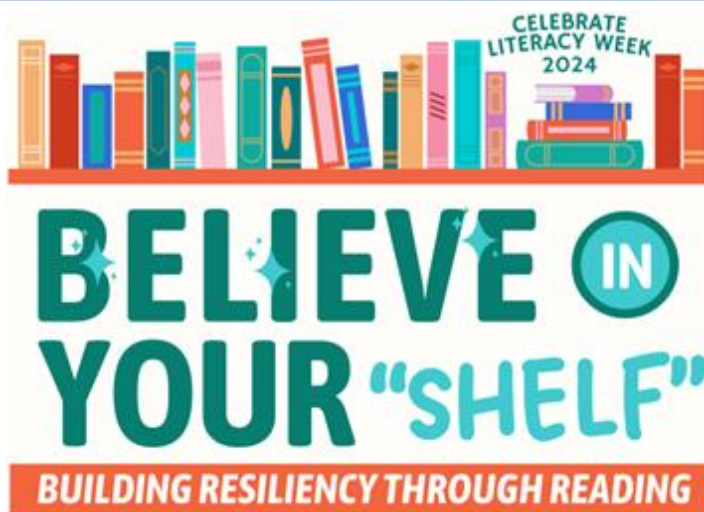
Race proceeds support CHARACTER COUNTS! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District (SJCS). A cash donation will be awarded to the top three schools with the most registrants. All race registrants will receive a t-shirt and other goodies from area businesses and organizations. At the finish line, each race participant will receive a commemorative item.

How do I understand a F.A.S.T. Report?



Having trouble understanding your child's F.A.S.T. Progress Monitoring results? Don't worry! You are not alone.

Please refer to [the B.E.S.T. Scale for understanding your child's F.A.S.T.](#) for more information on proctoring, the testing calendar, and how to interpret your child's score.



Celebrate Literacy Week at OMES:

Motivational MONDAY 1/22:

"I think I can. I think I can. I know I can!" **Wear a shirt with a motivational message** in honor of *The Little Engine that Could*.

Teddy Bear TUESDAY 1/23:

"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." **Bring a stuffed animal** to read to today in honor of *Winnie the Pooh*.

Wacky WEDNESDAY 1/24:

"You're mad, bonkers, completely off your head. But I'll tell you a secret. All the best people are." **Dress crazy and wacky** in honor of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Thoughtful THURSDAY 1/25:

"'You have been my friend,' replied Charlotte. 'That in itself is a tremendous thing.'" **Write thoughtful notes to give at school today** in honor of *Charlotte's Web*.

Future FRIDAY 1/26:

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose." **Dress up as what you want to be in the future** in honor of *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

Family Ideas for Celebrate Literacy Week:

Pick a more advanced book to read aloud as a family and discuss in the living room instead of watching TV. Check out audio books for the car too! Try **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.

Share your School Event Photos for the Yearbook

Upload classroom and school events photos for consideration in the 2023-2024 Yearbook. All photos must be uploaded by February 2nd to be considered.

Share your photos to be considered for the 2024 yearbook!



From your phone, tablet or computer, visit **BuyTheYearbook.com**
Enter School ID# 715026

Leonard's

[Contact Leonard's Photography](#) for all of your photo needs.

Check out [Buytheyearbook.com](#) for your copy of the yearbook.

January 18th: Club Photos (wear your club uniform or t-shirt)

February 15th: Spring Campus Photos and Class Group Pictures

Important Dates:

January 15: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-NO SCHOOL

January 17: Report Cards live on HAC

January 18: SAC Meeting in the Media Center at 3:30pm

January 18: Leonard's Club Photo Day-Wear your club shirt/Team Uniform

January 22: PTO Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

January 22-26: Celebrate Literacy Week!

January 25-Feb 6th: Jump Rope for Heart

January 25: Valentine Grams on Sale

January 30: Panda Express Spirit Day 10:30am-9pm

SJCCA Enrollment and Audition Information

Is your child in 5th grade? Are they interested in the Arts?

[Please see our website](#) for more information regarding Center for the Arts in Middle School.



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.



Thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Why don't we have school on January 15th? For resources on this important man and holiday, click below:

[History Channel](#)

[Nat Geo Kids](#)

[Britannica](#)

[The King Center](#)

["I have a Dream" Speech](#)



Panda Express Spirit Day: January 30th

Online orders use code **358035**. In-person orders show flyer or mention OMES.



A Word From Our PTO

A Huge THANK YOU to all our Mason Volunteers that helped us during our HOLIDAY SHOP!

We sold over 14K! Can you believe it? If you volunteered, YOU CAN! We were busy! We appreciate your help!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities & Needs **We need volunteers to help Friday, February 2nd during our Souper Bowl Event. Sign Up Below!**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4CA5A629A5FF2-2023#/>

Donations needed: Stock the Teacher's Lounge:

<https://bit.ly/masonteachersrock>

SPIRIT ROCK Click here to reserve it:

<https://bit.ly/otismasonrock23-24>

BIRTHDAY MARQUEE Click here to reserve it:

<https://bit.ly/masonbirthdaymarquee>

SPIRITWEAR Order Online here:

<https://bit.ly/OtisSpiritstore>

📌 Don't Forget, PTO Meeting, 1/22 @3:30pm in the media center or Virtually:

<https://bit.ly/MasonPTOMeetings>