



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families
February 2024

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
Ms. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal

Manatee Highlight: Second Grade



Who are the courageous explorers of Second Grade? They are a courageous, kind, and hard-working bunch that want you to know, “It is so important to us that we work together as a team”. **SO, we asked our team:**

What should 2nd grade parents know?

MANNERS MATTER. When you are at Otis A. Mason, your character counts. We all learn best when we feel respected.

It’s okay not to know, but it’s NOT okay to refuse to try. The effort you put in each day will pay off as you find yourself reaching your goals. *Every assignment, every activity matters.*

We are growing readers. Our goal is to independently read and comprehend grade-level text. Practice at home!

What can we do with our 2nd grader at home?

There’s a method to mathematics! The curriculum develops your child’s understanding of place value and number sense. Let them teach YOU new strategies!

Read, read, read! Reading should be done for enjoyment. All readers benefit from having someone read to them or by reading to someone else. Share the joy of reading.

2nd grade is a bridge to more independent learning. Allow your child opportunities to be independent at home.

What are the best resources for Second Grade parents?

YOU: The home-to-school connection is invaluable. Your participation, perspective & support are needed.

CLEVER: Access FREE learning resources on our website.

BOOKS: Check out the school and public libraries!

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

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. The focus for the month of February is CARING. *Why is it so important to be caring in our community?* Caring 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 CARING member of the community.**

- **BE KIND!** Show your child what kindness looks like in all situations (*especially* when you are in situations where you are angry, frustrated, disappointed, and tired).
- **EXPRESS GRATITUDE.** Does your child show gratitude to you? What about siblings? Are they able to say “thank you” regularly to those who provide services: waiters, bus drivers, teachers, cashiers, and clerks?
- **HELP THOSE IN NEED.** It is never too early to get your child involved in charitable giving. Teach them to recognize when someone is struggling and how to help in an age-appropriate way. Include your child in making donations to charitable organizations when clothing or toys are outgrown.
- **ACTS OF KINDNESS:** Consider incorporating random acts of kindness into your household and neighborhood. Check out the amazing and positive acts of kindness that have gone viral online!
- **ONLINE CARING-What does it look like?** If social media is a large part of your family life, be sure to demonstrate kind online etiquette to set a good example for your child. Talk through specific examples and coach compassion in your child. Online content and access should always be age appropriate.

Have questions about Character Counts! or character education? Contact our School Counselors at 904-547-8440 or on our website. We are always available to support you with character education.



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!

LOST ITEMS NEED TO BE FOUND: HELP!

We continue to search for the owners of items in our vast Lost and Found located in the cafeteria. PLEASE have your student check this area regularly. They may stop by before or after school; or during lunch; or with teacher permission during the rest of the school day. Any approved volunteers are also welcome to sign-in at the Front Office and check the Lost and Found for items belonging to their family. **PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD!**



Technology Corner:

Need help accessing one of our services online?

SCHOOLGY ACCESS:

Stjohnsschools.schoolgy.com

You will then be prompted to sign into Microsoft:

#####@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).

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

SCHOOL ACCESS FORM:

Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply

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/>



Jan 25- Feb 12: Kids Heart Challenge community service project

Feb 5-9: National School Counselor Week

Feb 9: Winter Wonderland Dance; Book Fair open until 7:30pm

Feb 9-16: Book Fair is open from 7:45am-3:45pm

Feb 12-16: Celebrate KINDNESS Week

Feb 15: School Resource Officer Day

Feb 15: SAC Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

Feb 19: Presidents Day-NO SCHOOL

Feb 24: Chocolate and Beyond at the Classic Car Museum

Feb 26: PTO Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

Feb 27: Spring Individual & Class Photos with Leonard's. Order at Leonards.com/Photoprepay;

Feb 28: Girl Scouts of America visit during lunch

A Word from Our PTO

A heart-felt thank you to all who made the Souper Bowl possible. You warmed our hearts and filled our bellies. The faculty and staff at Otis A. Mason are so grateful for your support. What a wonderful day it was!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities & Needs

Donations needed to **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>

📍 PTO Meeting, Feb 26th @3:30pm in the media center or Virtually: <https://bit.ly/MasonPTOMeetings>

Otis A. MASON 
FAMILY SPONSORED BANNERS ARE HERE!

Be a person of CHARACTER
The Jones Family
Sponsors the pillar of **FAIRNESS**
2023-2024

Be a person of CHARACTER
The Jones Family
Sponsors the pillar of **Trustworthiness**
2023-2024

Be a person of CHARACTER
The Jones Family
Sponsors the pillar of **CARING**
2023-2024

Be a person of CHARACTER
YOUR FAMILY HERE
Sponsors the pillar of **RESPONSIBILITY**
2023-2024

Be a person of CHARACTER
The Jones Family
Sponsors the pillar of **RESPECT**
2023-2024

Be a person of CHARACTER
The Jones Family
Sponsors the pillar of **CITIZENSHIP**
2023-2024

Sold

Be a person of CHARACTER
The Jones Family
Sponsors **ALL PILLARS**
2023-2024

\$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!

Yearbooks, Spring Photos, and Class Photos

Upload classroom and school event photos for consideration in the 2023-2024 Yearbook. Order your yearbook today! Families have another opportunity to order school photos or to order a class photo.

Share your photos to be considered for the 2024 yearbook!



From your phone, tablet or computer, visit **BuyTheYearbook.com**

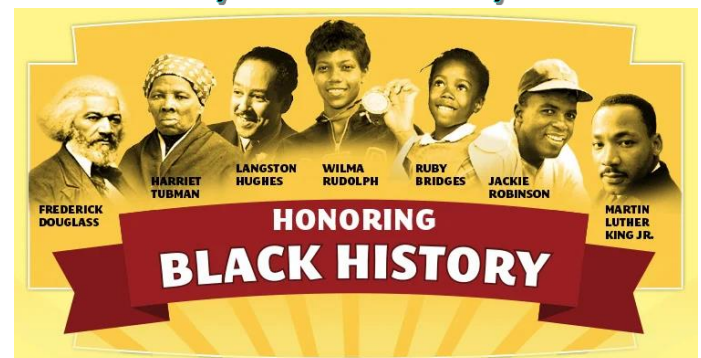
Enter School ID# 715026

Leonard's

Contact [Leonard's Photography](#) for all of your photo needs. Check out Buytheyearbook.com to order.

February 27th: Spring Campus Photos and Class Group Pictures

February is Black History Month



Students will be learning about Black History in their classes this month. Join us by speaking with your child about Black History. FREE resources available:

Nat Geo's Intro to BHM:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/black-history-month>

Smithsonian's Guide to Historical Artifacts:

<https://historyexplorer.si.edu/major-themes/theme/black-history-month>

Interviews with diverse authors about diverse characters:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/books-and-authors/literacy-calendar/celebrating-and-learning-about-black-history-and-culture>

Library of Congress Guide to Celebrate BHM:

<https://cdn.loc.gov/project/locnet/BlackHistory/?locir-blogfam>

Kindness Week is Here!

Celebrating our Character Counts! Pillar of the Month Caring!
OMES Kindness Week
FEB. 12-16

Spirit Week!

Monday Feb. 12: "Color Your World With Kindness" (Wear Tie-Dye)
Tuesday Feb. 13: "Brighten Our World With Kindness" (Wear Neon Colors)
Wednesday Feb. 14: "OMES Kindness Day" (Wear OMES Shirts or Colors)
Thursday Feb. 15: "Peace, Love and Happiness Day" (Wear 60's Attire)
Friday, Feb. 16: "Dreaming of Kindness Day" (Wear PJs)

Be on the lookout for special lessons, announcements and displays!

Grateful to be "Otis A. Mason" Elementary School



It is a bittersweet time for our school as we say "goodbye" to our namesake, Dr. Otis A. Mason. He was a pillar of our community as an educator, coach, principal, and superintendent. He led by example in his 95 years. In this moment, we are also so very proud to be a school that represents Dr. Mason's legacy. We strive to instill the same good character in our students. Dr. Mason lived his values and led by example in our school district for decades. We sure hope to make him proud in all that we do. Thank you, Dr. Mason, for shining your light on St. Johns County. You will be missed.






Girl Scouts of America will be on Campus February 28th



Success Factor! The Girl Scout Impact Study

New research finds that Girl Scouts is linked to success! Girl Scouts shine above their peers in leadership, academics, career aspirations and hope for the future:

LEADERSHIP OUTCOMES. Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

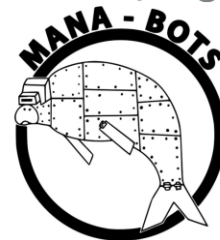
-  Have a strong sense of self (80% vs. 68%)
-  Have positive values (75% vs. 59%)
-  Seek challenges and learn from setbacks (62% vs. 42%)
-  Develop and maintain healthy relationships (60% vs. 43%)
-  Exhibit community problem-solving skills (57% vs. 28%)

Congratulations, Teacher of the Year and Rookie Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Art Teacher, Mrs. Kevanie Counts-Cacchione, our Rookie Teacher of the Year and 4th-Grade Teacher, Mrs. Mary Ziegenfuss, our Teacher of the Year! They were honored at a banquet February 1st.



Congratulations, Lego League!



The Mason Manabots competed at Districts with coaches Mr. and Mrs. Thomas. They made us very proud as they demonstrated good character throughout the season! Thank you for sharing your love of science.

OMES Community Service Project: Join us for the Kids Heart Challenge!



American Heart Association.

Dear Manatee families,
Join us for our 20th Annual Kids Heart Challenge-our fundraiser to support heart health in kids and to support the American Heart Association.

When? 1/25-2/12

Goal? \$32,000

How will my student participate? Students will learn about Heart Health and will Jump Rope for Heart during their PE class.

How can I help? Talk to your kids about heart health! Check out the resources from the American Heart Association and donate to the "American Heart Association" (send in check or cash on 2/12 or scan below). *In addition, please consider donating fruit snacks to your child's PE class for the special event.*



Are there prizes for participation? If we meet our school-wide goal, Manatee staff will be lining up to "Pucker Up for Piggy" and kiss a real pig! Other prizes include, toys, a ticket to bingo, gift cards, and a chance to win SUPERBOWL TICKETS! In addition our school will receive a donation from the American Heart Association to assist with the purchase of new PE equipment to encourage healthy exercise.

Anything else I need to know? In addition to donating to the American Heart Association and talking to your child about healthy diet and exercise, encourage your child to wear proper footwear and the color red on their Jump Rope Day
With Heartfelt Thanks,
Coach Hollister and Coach Baez



A Quick Guide to Heart Health

Let's Eat Healthy: Click here for a guide to healthy eating!
<https://www.myplate.gov/>



Let's Get Moving! Click here for the American Heart Association's Guide to Exercise. Be sure to follow the American Academy of Pediatrics guide to screen time. Get off those screens and get moving. What exercise is right for me? <http://tinyurl.com/mr3jasum>

Do you know CPR? Click here to learn how to save a life. Guides and certification classes are available.

<https://cpr.heart.org/en/>

Emergency Action Steps



What is your family's healthy sleep habit? Make sure your child gets the appropriate amount of uninterrupted sleep.

How much sleep do kids need?

