



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families
March 2024

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Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Mrs. Anne Marie Raynor, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal

Manatee Highlight: Our Pre-K Team



Our pre-k team is the most hard-working and dedicated team around. We just had to highlight the delightful shenanigans of Mr. Ross' classroom, the glittery goodness of Mrs. Burchfield's team, and the welcoming aura of Mrs. Piercy's lessons. These classroom teachers are assisted by the most loving paraprofessionals, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Canada, and Mrs. Bogert. In addition, we have two ASL interpreters, Mr. Randolph and Mr. Solis. This incredible, superhero team brings the joy of learning to their students every day! Our pre-k team wanted to send these tips:

Three things to know about the Pre-k classroom.

1. Pre-K is a mixed aged and ability classroom with students from ages 3-5 at all ability levels from learning to speak and learning to read.
2. The teaching team has experience in general education and special needs classrooms from PK-12th grades.
3. We have 60 grade level standards we continuously monitor and assess throughout the year.

What can I practice at home with my child?

1. Social Skills – That turn taking includes *asking* for a turn and *waiting* for a turn.
2. Independence with clothing – zipping, buttoning, lacing, pulling shirts and pants on and off.
3. Food Exploration – The district has a set menu of pre-k meals to limit choking hazards, there are no choices - work on trying new foods at home.

What resources do you recommend?

1. Try a non-stimulating app that encourages critical thinking – like PokPok play room
2. The SJCLS has story times weekly with interactive crafts that focus on school readiness skills. They have various sensory, fine motor & dramatic play toys.
3. Try an indoor playroom or gym for students with different abilities/needs like Sensory Towne or Rock the Spectrum Gym.

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

Why is it so important to be trustworthy in our community? Trustworthiness 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 TRUSTWORTHY member of the community.**

- **Be honest.** There are so many ambiguous situations that your child needs guidance on in daily life. Guide them with honesty and help walk your child through the right, honest choice and explain why the honest approach is the best one.
- **Be reliable.** It is so important to do what you say you will do. Whether making a promise or issuing a consequence, exemplify to your child what it means to be dependable.
- **Do the right thing even when no one is watching.** Be a brave superhero and applaud your child for making good choices (especially when they did it on their own!).
- **Teach your child the importance of a good reputation.** Being a trustworthy person with a good reputation opens innumerable doors of opportunity. Act as if every action is publicized on the front page of the newspaper or broadcast on YouTube.
- **Dive into examples and scenarios:** Does omitting the truth count as a lie? Does it count as stealing if the item is lost? What about inexpensive? What is the right thing to do if your child finds a wallet? Cash on the ground?

Have questions about character education? Contact our School Counseling Team, Ms. Ribeiro or Ms. Schnell at 904-547-8455.





March 19: Classes Resume: Welcome Back!

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

March 22: Report Cards live on HAC (please contact us if you need any assistance with HAC at 904-547-8440. HAC is monitored by teachers and admin and is a great tool for home-school communication, PLEASE use it regularly!)

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

March 26: Spirit DAY at Papa Johns 10am-11pm

March 28: K-2 Field Day 8:30-11:30am Volunteers needed! [Otis A. Mason PTO: Manatee Spring Field Day K-2 \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

March 29: NO SCHOOL


April 1-5: Assistant Principal Appreciation Week!

April 3: Paraprofessional Appreciation Day!

April 4: School Library Appreciation Day!

April 5: Mason's Got Talent at 6:00pm

How are we doing? Let us know with the 23-24 Parent Needs Assessment

Parent Survey
Otis A. Mason SAC Survey (Parent) 23-24


Our team at Otis A. Mason Elementary School wants to do our very best to serve the needs of our families and community. Please help us improve. We want to be the example we set for our students as we make CHARACTER COUNT every day that we come to work with your child. Please fill out this survey by March 31st so that YOUR feedback and suggestions are heard.

[This link is also available on our website.](#)

Front Office Reminders:

Drop off: Please drop off your child in a timely manner and respect traffic patterns and our friendly helpers. If you are late, please walk your child into the Front Office to be signed in accurately and safely.

Items dropped off in our Front Office: We appreciate how supportive and involved our parents are when dropping off items throughout the school day. Due to the volume of items, we are having difficulty with delivering items without interrupting instructional time. Please help us support our teachers and the learning environment by keeping dropped off items to a minimum. We cannot guarantee that items dropped off during the school day can be delivered on time. **As a reminder, we do not accept flowers, balloons, and gifts for students during the school day.**

Volunteering on Campus: We always need and appreciate extra help on our campus. If you are interested, please reach out to our PTO at otismasonPTO@gmail.com or speak to your child's teacher to make arrangements. All adults on campus must pass a background check at www.stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply.

Birthdays: If you would like to drop off a treat for your child on their special day, please make arrangements with the teacher in advance. Treats may be distributed during recess or lunch and our community would greatly appreciate a healthy option. Due to limited capacity, we are not offering family dining with students. Students may be checked out during lunch time as an alternative and returned directly after their 30 minute lunch so as not to miss instructional time..

Dismissal Changes: We understand life is busy for our families and plans can change in an instant. Please help us get your child home correctly every day:

1. Maintain routine and keep dismissal changes to a minimum.
2. Talk to your child every day about how they are going home (especially if there is a change!)
3. Communicate changes with the teacher **and** via our Dismissal Change Form: <https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=mesdismissal#>
4. Please submit changes by **2:15pm** every day (and **1:15pm** on Wednesdays) so we have adequate time to inform teachers, students, the Front Office, and the Dismissal Team.
5. If you are concerned about a change in transportation or creating a routine, please call us, we are here to assist! Team Mason: 904-547-8440.
6. Remember, PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED to check out any child. No exceptions. Thank you for understanding.

Otis A. Mason rejoices in the Kids Heart Challenge, AGAIN!

Congratulations, OMES for being one of the top fundraising elementary schools for the Kids Heart Challenge!

Fundraiser Total: \$23, 937 raised.

Total Students Registered: 237

Top Class Fundraiser: The Kingdom of Hearts

Mrs. Tedder's 4th Grade Class

Top Grade for Fundraising and Registered Students: 2nd Grade

Classroom Challenge Winners:

Pre-K: Mr. Ross' Class

Kindergarten: Mrs. Hanson's Class

1st Grade: Mrs. Villarreal's Class

2nd Grade: Mrs. Jones' Class

3rd Grade: A TIE! Mrs. Paesch and Mrs. Veitinger's Classes

4th Grade: Mrs. Jaffa's Class

5th Grade: Mrs. Steen's Class

Top Students:

King Fundraiser: David Brissey

Queen Fundraiser: Sophia Stillwell

Prince Fundraiser: Mason Baker

Princess Fundraiser: Muriel Shen



Test Proctors Needed! Help us support our students!



How could one become a proctor? Easy! Please review the linked presentation of proctor rules (also on our website) and sign pages 16 & 17 (pages available at Front Desk as well): **Please Review:** [Proctor Training 2023-2024-to share](#)

ONLY approved volunteers may be proctors. Please call us to check on your volunteer status at 904-547-8440.

Please sign up for a spot on [our Sign-up Genius](#).

Please note that you cannot proctor in the same classroom as a relation (child, niece, grandson, etc.).

A Word from our Otis A. Mason PTO:



The end of the year is fast approaching and there are so many opportunities to volunteer. Please make sure that you are an approved volunteer at www.stjohnskeepntrack.com/apply

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>

FIELD DAY March 28th 8:30-11:30am *for K- 2nd Grades*

[Otis A. Mason PTO: Manatee Spring Field Day K-2 \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

📍 PTO Meeting, March 25th @ 3:30pm in the media center or Virtually: <https://bit.ly/MasonPTOMeetings>

OUR NEXT SPIRIT DAY Papa John's Pizza 10am-11pm

Congratulations to our Outstanding Volunteers for the 2023-2024 School Year!!!



Congratulations
TO OUR 2023-2024
OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!

5th Grade Updates and Events

Congratulations on having a 5th grader in your household! We are so excited to celebrate our fifth graders and to make this last year of elementary school special and memorable.

APRIL

4/2 State Writing Assessment

4/5 Quarter 3 AR Party

MAY

5/3 State Reading Assessment

5/10 State Math Assessment

5/14 State Science Assessment

5/16 Sea World Informational Meeting (more info to come)

5/20 Sea World Field Trip (more info to come)

5/21 Quarter 4 AR Party

5/22 Fifth Grade Celebration, Walk & Yearbook Signing (more info to come)

5/23 Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony @ OMES (more info to come)

5/24 Last Day of School for Students (Q4 Report Cards Available on HAC)

Please review the weekly communication from your child's teacher regarding end-of-year events. Need to make a payment?

[SchoolPay - Checkout](#)



Returning Student Verification is Coming to your Email Inbox Soon

Every year around April, the SJCS D will email a returning student verification. This is a link to update and reenroll your child in school. The form saves the data from the last time you completed it so updating is easy. **BE CAREFUL!** **The RSV does not contain any changes made through the Front Office throughout the school year.** For example, if you have added/subtracted emergency contacts over the school year, these will not be represented. **PLEASE** review the information carefully. The district does not send the link for all students at the same time so do not panic if you receive one child's and not another's. Each grade is sent separately and first to one parent, and then to another.

What can you do now to prepare? Please make sure your email is updated in our system!

Congrats, OMES Character Cup Team!



Otis A. Mason Character Cup Competitors:

Graham Burchfield

Emerson Inlavongsa

Kamillah McMillian

Jordyn Newsom

Angel Pagan

Logan Shanti

Mariah Hackney

Elijah Kellerman

Cason Mitchell

Skylin Olds

Cade Pritchard

Ela Smith

Thank you, Coach Allen and Coach Hollister!



Child Find: Finds that Special Child

Do you have 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 or toileting

Please reach out to FDLRS/NEFEC CHILD FIND

If you have questions or concerns about a child birth to 5 years of age:

386-329-3811 or online at

<https://www.fdlrsnefec.org/child-find>



Art Contest Submissions due April 30th

Encourage your child to create a piece of art depicting "A Day Without Violence" and submit it to our district-wide art contest! See our website for more information. Prizes for the winners include being published in a calendar!



Betty Griffin Center "A DAY WITHOUT VIOLENCE" 2025 Art & Poetry Contest

It takes a community to end domestic abuse and it can begin with just one day without violence. Students from all over St John's county can submit original artwork or poetry reflecting a day without violence to become part of a countywide awareness campaign.

Awards: 1st Place – \$50.00, 2nd Place – \$25.00 and 11 honorable mentions will be presented \$10.00! All 13 winning artists and 12 poets will have their art or poem reproduced in the Betty Griffin Center "A Day Without Violence" 2025 Calendar. They will also receive special recognition and have their work displayed at the "A Day Without Violence" Art Show

Rules: To be eligible, artwork must be in color and able to be reproduced at 8x10 and suitable for framing. (Horizontal Format Only) All original 2D media is acceptable. No crafts or Computer generated images. The theme "A Day Without Violence" must be reflected in the art or poetry.

An entry form must accompany each submission.

For More Information Visit <https://bettygriffincenter.org>

All Entries Due April 30, 2024

Entry drop off locations: Betty Griffin Thrift Shoppes or any of the 6 St. Johns County Libraries

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Talent Show April 5th at 6:00pm

Mason's Got Talent

LOOKING FOR STUDENT AND STAFF TALENT!

FORM AND PAYMENT DUE FEB 23RD

\$10 PER TALENT ENTRY

STUDENT OR STAFF NAME: _____

STUDENT TEACHER/GRADE: _____

ENTRY TITLE: _____

ENTRY TYPE: _____

PARENT NAME/EMAIL/PHONE: _____

LIMIT 4 MINUTES PER ENTRY

INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH REGISTRATION FORM
CASH OR CHECK (PAYABLE TO MELINDA STEVENS)

STUDENTS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR A PREVIEW

DINNER AND A SHOW!

COST AND ORDER INFO FOR TICKETS COMING SOON!

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY

April 5th

6:00PM

QUESTIONS???

CRITICAL LEARNING AT HOME

Students need to constantly learn the process of developing students' self-awareness, self management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.



Benefits

Students can learn resiliency, problem solving skills, and interpersonal skills.

Students are more likely to have increased: academic achievement, improved behavior and attitudes, and cope better with everyday challenges.

Activities to enhance these skills:

Journaling
Yoga

Write a letter or draw a picture for someone

Create a schedule
Make a to do list