



OMES at-a-Glance

News for Otis A. Mason Families

February 2025



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: Our Café Team



Our incredible Manatee Café team works hard to serve our school population a delicious and healthy breakfast and lunch every school day. We are so honored to have them lead the way in good character.

Breakfast and lunch are provided FREE to ALL students. Here is a link to breakfast and lunch menus:

[Breakfast and Lunch Menus](#)

In addition to free entrees, families may purchase extra snacks, drinks, and entrees. Fridays, there is also ice cream available for purchase. Families may put funds on an account for student use in the cafeteria. Here is the link for PAYPAMS:

[Click here to add money to your child's Café account.](#)

We kindly ask that you discuss lunchroom etiquette with your child. It is important that expectations are reinforced both at home and at school. Does your child know how to wait in line? How to share a table with others? How to take turns speaking in a conversation? Does your child have the ability to open the items in their lunchbox without assistance? What is the proper voice level when having a dining table discussion? We appreciate the time and energy that it takes to teach good manners. Even a simple "please" and "thank you" makes a world of difference to our OMES café superheroes. Check out our website for more information and resources:

[Otis A. Mason Website-Café](#)

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

Here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School, *we are a caring community*. Caring is the very foundation of a civil society. We believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be CARING**:

- **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). We can all strive to be kinder and more understanding.
- **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? How do you demonstrate gratitude to your children.
- **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. Everyone has the ability to help someone else.
- **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! Being kind is rewarding.
- **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. Think before you post-how will this make someone else feel?

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.



We want your gently used items! Spring Cleaning can help our school and Goodwill.

How can you help? When you do your spring cleaning, please save and donate them to our Goodwill Bag-it-up Donation Drive! Our school will be participating in a large donation drive this April!

When can I bring items in? Our goal is to get as many items as possible dropped off on April 10th during morning drop off. Volunteers from Goodwill will be here to help unload items from your car. We will also accept items the week before and the week after. Please place bags in the blue bin in front of the school.

Why donate my items to Goodwill at Otis A. Mason? We hope this donation drive will be one of many ways to teach your child character here at school. In addition, students who participate will earn a prize from Goodwill. Lastly, our school will receive a monetary reward for participation based on the amount donated:

5-9 carts full will earn our school \$750
10-14 carts will earn us \$1500
15+ carts will earn us \$2500



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-every day. 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?

SCHOOLLOGY ACCESS:

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).

<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/>



Feb 13: "You're So Sweet" Dance

Feb 14: Faculty In-service Day: No classes for students

Feb 15: School Resource Officer Day-Thank you, Deputy Davis for supporting our community every day!

Feb 17: Presidents Day-NO SCHOOL

Feb 24: PTO/SAC Meeting at 3:15pm in the Media Center

Feb 25: Spring Individual Photos (Optional Picture Day)

Feb 28: Class Photos with Leonard's. Order at Leonards.com/Photoprepay;

Mar 1: Chocolate and Beyond at the Classic Car Museum-this fundraising event supports the RSVP volunteer group and funds TASK grants. Both of which support students in the St. Johns County School District. Buy your tickets today!

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/taskstjohns/chocolate-amp-beyond-2025>

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

This general sign-up includes helping with picture days, Character Counts! Events, and more. Picture Day volunteers earn a free photo package! [VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP](#)

School dances are the best! We could use volunteers and donations! Let's make this dance the sweetest yet! [Otis A. Mason PTO: "You're So Sweet" Family Dance](#)

Want to help when extra hands are most needed? [Test Proctor Sign-up for April and May](#)

This link helps support our teachers! Help with the gift of a cup of coffee! [Stock the Teacher's Lounge Sign-up](#)

Want to join the discussion? Want to contribute to planning? Let's hear your voice! 📍 SAC/PTO Meetings, Feb 24th @3:315pm in the media center or Virtually: <https://bit.ly/MasonPTOMeetings>



SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 28TH AT 6PM

AUDITIONS OPEN!

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN TO LET YOUR TALENT SHINE! FOR ONLY \$10 PER ACT, GATHER YOUR FRIENDS, PRACTICE YOUR TALENTS AND COME SHOW EVERYONE THAT "MASON'S GOT TALENT"!!! FILL OUT THIS FORM AND TURN IT INTO THE FRONT OFFICE WITH MONEY ATTACHED BY FEBRUARY 21ST (CASH ONLY PLEASE) AND WAIT FOR YOUR AUDITION DAY!

STUDENT(S): _____

TEACHER'(S): _____

ACT NAME: _____

* **SONG:** _____ *

Yearbooks, Spring Photos, and Class Photos: Contact Leonard's

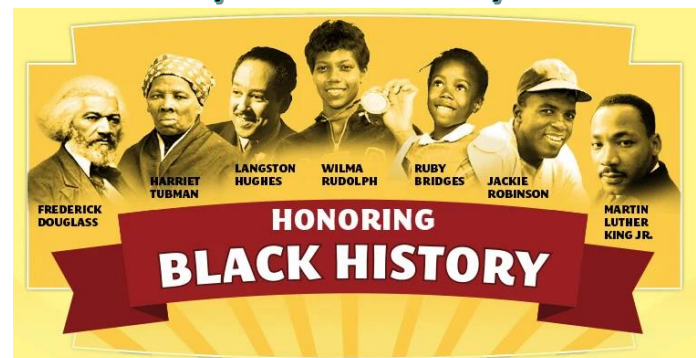
[Contact Leonard's Photography](#) for all of your photo needs. Check out [Buytheyearbook.com](#) to order.



February 25th: Spring Campus Photos: These photos are optional and will not be in the yearbook. Only students whose families purchased photos will be photographed. Order forms were already sent home. Order on our website by 2/24.

February 28th: Class Group Photos: All classes will be photographed together with their respective teachers. Order forms will be sent home or order on our website by 2/27.

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:

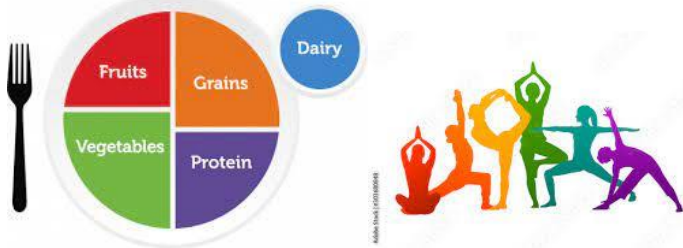
<https://www.readingrockets.org/books-and-authors/literacy-calendar/celebrating-and-learning-about-black-history-and-culture>

Library of Congress Guide to Celebrate BHM:

<https://cdn.loc.gov/project/lcnet/BlackHistory/?locrl-blogfam>

Heart Health Review

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. Collect phones at least 30 minutes before bedtime.

How much sleep do kids need?



Congratulations, Teachers of the Year, Employee of the Year, and Volunteers of the Year!

We wanted to once again congratulate several incredible Manatees in our community. Please be sure to thank and congratulate:

Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Jaffa

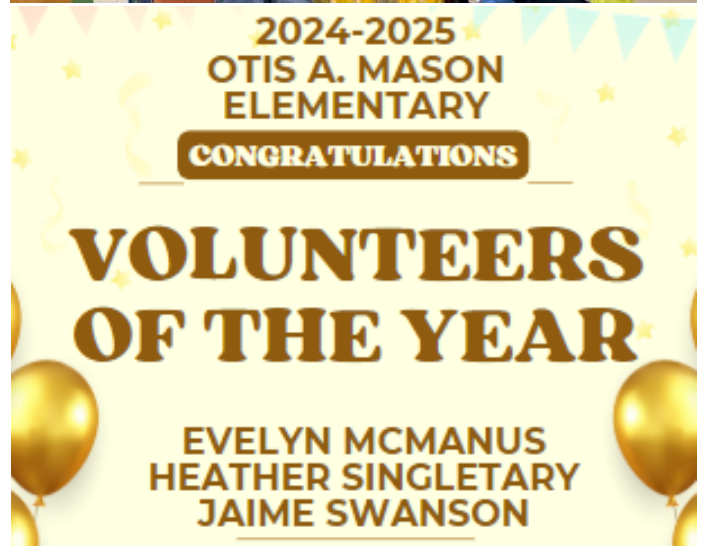
Rookie Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Johnson

School Employee of the Year: Mr. David

Senior Volunteer of the Year: Mrs. Swanson

Adult Volunteer of the Year: Mrs. Singletary

Junior Volunteer of the Year: Miss Evelyn McManus



In addition, we want to thank the multitude of volunteers, chaperones, donors, cooks, creators, and supporters. It truly takes a village, and we are so grateful to have you as a part of ours! Volunteers make the world a better place! Every minute counts! Thank YOU!!!!

