



# OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families  
January 2025

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086  
(904) 547-8440 – main  
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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. Jansen, Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Lepera, Mrs. Babineau, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Lois, Mrs. Hanson, and Mrs. DeLuna

Our Kindergarten Team is caring. They take their students on an academic adventure every day. It is so important to our teachers that parents are thoroughly involved in the educational journey. What do you need to know as a Kindergarten parent?

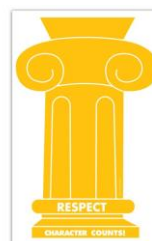
- Read to your child nightly! Make it a routine.
- Practice your sight words with your child. (There are so many sight word activities and games!)
- Count with your student at every opportunity.
- Encourage self-awareness and independence.
- Teach responsibility with belongings.
- Coach your child through feelings, conflicts, sharing, and proper conflict resolution.
- Include your child in...well...everything! Engaging your child in the world around them is a wonderful way to learn!
- Remember, we LOVE your child too!
- There are FREE classes and resources at our public library: [www.sjclps.org](http://www.sjclps.org)
- Your child has access to Lexia, DreamBox, and Reading Eggs on our website (Clever).
- Need help with Science? Generation Genius: <https://www.generationgenius.com/>
- Accelerated Reader: <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/>

## Character Highlight: The Pillar of RESPECT!

The character 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 (904) 547-8440. At Otis A. Mason, YOUR Character Counts!**



## Kids Heart Challenge: Jump Rope for Heart Starts January 21st



We need your help to accomplish our goal of having our school community and families to know Hands-Only CPR and the warning signs of a stroke.

We want all students to sign up on the app and complete Finn's Mission. They'll even earn a free wristband for signing up! Plus, you can help your classroom teacher earn Amazon gift cards, and our school earn an extra \$500.00 for PE equipment! Here's how you can help:

**Step 1.** Download the AHA Schools app for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) to search for our school or [Click Here to Register](#).

**Step 2.** Sign your student up for Kids Heart Challenge...it is free!

**Step 3.** From the menu, go to "Fundraise" and then scroll down to Send Video where you can customize and share a video to send to family and friends where they can learn Hands-Only CPR and warning signs of a stroke.

## Thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Why don't we have school on January 20<sup>th</sup>? For resources on Dr. King, the Civil Rights Movement, and the creation of this important holiday, click below:

[History Channel](#)

[Nat Geo Kids](#)

[Britannica](#)

[The King Center](#)

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



## Join us! We're Running for Character!

12TH ANNUAL CHARACTER COUNTS! In St. Johns County  
**6K3K**  
RUN • WALK  
Saturday, February 1, 2025  
9 A.M.  
Palencia Elementary School



Register by December 31, 2024, to receive a race t-shirt and other give-aways from sponsoring businesses and community organizations!



PRESENTING SPONSOR

REGISTER AT  
RACESMITH.COM



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 (SJCSD). **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.

## Calendar: Save the Date!

**January 16:** Report Cards live on HAC

**January 20:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-NO SCHOOL

**January 21:** Jump Rope for Heart, Kids Heart Challenge Kick-off!

**January 27:** PTO/SAC Meetings at 3:15pm in the Media Center

**January 27-31:** Celebrate Literacy Week!

**January 28:** Dress like your favorite book character

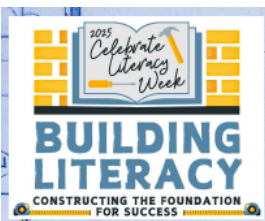
**January 30:** 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

**February 3:** Club Picture Day!

**February 11:** Interims live in HAC

**February 12:** FIRST EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAY RETURNS!

## Celebrate Literacy Week: read with us!



Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!  
January 27-31, 2025

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! is designed to raise awareness about the importance of reading and to inspire Florida's students and families to make reading part of their daily routines.

This week our goal is to inspire a love for reading and enhance vocabulary skills among our students.

Just like builders use tools to create amazing structures, our students will use books to build their knowledge and vocabulary! For many of us, our love for reading started with one book or one author. On **Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** we invite our students to **dress-up as a storybook character** from one of their favorite books to share their love for reading.

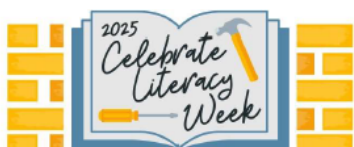
This week we will also celebrate our **100<sup>th</sup> day of school on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**! We have constructed a strong learning foundation during these first 100 days. Please see communication from your child's classroom teacher to see how this day will be celebrated.

Throughout the week, we will be tracking:

- **Books Read:** Our Prekindergarten through Second Grade students will be creating a visual representation to show how each book we read contributes to our literacy foundation.
- **Vocabulary Acquired:** New vocabulary words learned during the week will be displayed to symbolize the continued construction of our vocabulary knowledge.
- **Words Read:** The total number of words read by each class will be displayed to show how we continually build and support our literacy foundation.

We encourage you to support your child by discussing the books they are reading and the new words they are learning. Together, we can construct a strong foundation for their future success.

### Literacy Week Shoebox Art Contest: Bring Your Favorite Book to Life!



#### Create a Scene from Your Favorite Book

All students in grades 3-5 are eligible to participate.

The Scene created must be within a shoe box (of any size).

All entries must be submitted to Mrs. Cacchione (in the art room) by Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### How to Participate:

1. Pick your favorite scene from a book you love.
2. Grab a shoebox to create your scene in.
3. Create/Craft an original piece of art inspired by that scene.  
Use any medium you like: crayons, markers, paint, paper, Lego's or mixed media!
4. Write the book title you've chosen on the back of your artwork or work it into the scene.

Three winners will be chosen for each grade level: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place! Winners will be announced during Literacy Week and will receive a book fair gift certificate and a certificate of achievement.

The winners will be showcased in the media center during Literacy Week.

Let's celebrate the magic of books and creativity!

**CONSTRUCTING THE FOUNDATION  
FOR SUCCESS**

## Celebrate Literacy Week is Jan 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

### 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.

### Take the Reader's Oath Together:

*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.*

### Get Inspired: The 7 Habits of Happy Kids

We highly suggest the books *The Seven Habits of Happy Kids* by Sean Curtis. As well as the companion book for adults *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by the same author.

- **Be Proactive.** Kids often complain about boredom and blame their feelings on others. Guide your child to take charge of their feelings. Boredom is an easy "problem" to fix!
- **Begin with the end in mind.** What is a goal that your child has? Help them to practice making plans to achieve that goal!
- **Put first things first.** "Work first, then play." Does your child know what values you prioritize? How can we demonstrate balance in life that prioritizes what is MOST important?
- **Think "win-win."** *Everyone can win.* If we always think about how what we do and what we want affects others. Teach your child to make decisions by considering others as well.
- **Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood:** Listen before you talk. Be sure to demonstrate this with your child too!
- **Synergize.** Teach your child that together is always better!
- **Sharpen the Saw.** A balanced life helps with everything. Be sure that kids get the proper food, sleep, and exercise for example!

## 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.

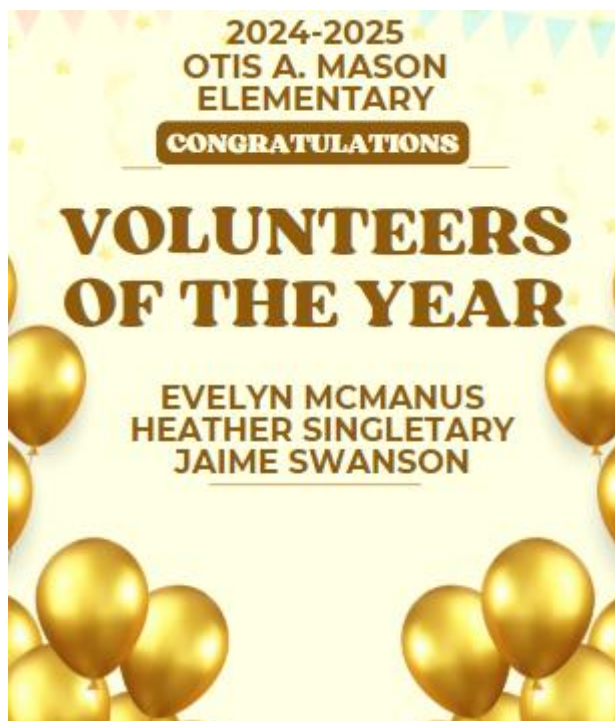
**"Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement"**

-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. Send the message



The SJCS D will honor these winners on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## A Word From Our PTO

*A Huge THANK YOU to all our Mason Volunteers that helped us during our HOLIDAY SHOP! It was a HUGE success and simply magical for our students and families.*

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

### DINE TO DONATE! FUNDRAISING NIGHT

Support  
**OTIS MASON ELEMENTARY**  
TUES., JANUARY 14  
4 - 10PM

**10% DONATION NIGHT**

Support Otis Mason Elementary by presenting this flyer to the St. Augustine, FL location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to Otis Mason Elementary!

Support Otis Mason Elementary believes student success is fostered by continuous commitment to improvement, which ensures well-rounded and motivated learners. Scan the barcode for dine in or carry out Jan. 14 to support them.

**(904) 789-5263**  
410 OUTLET MALL BLVD.  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

AR Party **Volunteers** needed on January 17<sup>th</sup>:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0844A9A82BA2F94-54279696-brag#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0844A9A82BA2F94-54279696-brag#/)

**Volunteers** needed for other upcoming events:

<https://bit.ly/otismasonvolunteers>

Donations needed: **Stock the Teacher's Lounge:**

<https://bit.ly/welovemason>

**SPIRIT ROCK** Click here to reserve it:

<https://bit.ly/otismasonrock24-25>

**BIRTHDAY MARQUEE** Click here to reserve it:

<https://bit.ly/mason-birthday-marquee>

**SPIRITWEAR** Order Online here:

<https://bit.ly/masonspiritwear>

📌 Don't Forget, PTO/SAC Meeting, 1/27 @3:15pm in the media center or Virtually:

<https://bit.ly/MasonPTOMeetings>