



OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY

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# The Manatee Memo

## News for Mason Families

February 7, 2020



Dr. Nigel D. Pillay, Principal  
Mrs. Jill Hillier, Assistant Principal

Dear Mason Families,

It is hard to believe that we are in the third quarter of the school year. Time flies when you're having fun! Looking ahead, we have many great things to look forward to this month. Candy grams are on sale for Valentine's Day, Penny Wars will begin, the Book Fair will be back, and the Mason Chorus and Steel Band will have a performance.

Congratulations to our Battle of the Books team! They took FIRST place in the district competition. Way to go Dani Miller, Madilyn Koshinski, Grace Shuford, Hannah Singletary, Zach Hess, Camila Rafols, and Jane McManus! We are so proud!

Last week was such a great time of fun filled literacy activities here at OMES to! We want to say a special thanks to Mrs. Turner, our Literacy Coach, and Mrs. Bendt, Media Specialist, who organized so many wonderful events for our students.

Our classes will be taking their group pictures on February 28<sup>th</sup>. A notice should be coming home this week with ordering information.

If you or a family you know is in need of assistance with clothing or food, please reach out to our School Counselor, Kathy Hamill (547-8440). We have a Clothes Closet and Food Pantry here at the school and we are happy to help!

Happy Leap Year!

All the best,

*Dr. Nigel D. Pillay & Mrs. Jill Hillier*  
Principal Assistant Principal

### OUR VISION:

The "Mason Way" is one that nurtures a passion in every child for personal success, good character, and a desire to learn, explore, and better themselves as they grow to be responsible members of our community.

### OUR MISSION:

At Mason Elementary, we believe student success is fostered by a continuous commitment to improvement, which ensures well-rounded and motivated learners. We do this by maintaining a safe and dynamic learning environment, promoting high expectations for all students, nurturing determination, developing personal relationships, and involving our community.

## School Hours

School Hours - 7:55AM to 3:45PM (daily)

Student Hours - 8:25AM to 2:45PM (M, T, Th, F)  
8:25AM to 1:45PM (Weds.)

1<sup>st</sup> bell at 8:20, 2<sup>nd</sup> bell at 8:25

Students arriving after the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell must be walked inside and signed in by the parent/guardian.

**February we will highlight the pillar of CARING:**  
**Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care •**  
**Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in**  
**need • Be charitable and altruistic**



## Important Dates

- 2/5 – S.T.A.R. Wednesday for 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- 2/6 – Interims Issued
- 2/7 – Space Night
- 2/10 – Donations Due for Jump Rope for Heart
- 2/12 - S.T.A.R. Wednesday for 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2/17 – NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day
- 2/19 - S.T.A.R. Wednesday for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- 2/21 – Yearbook Money and Form Due
- 2/21 – LEADers with Character Celebration at 8:45AM
- 2/24 – 3/6 – Spring Book Fair
- 2/24 – PTO Meeting at 3:30PM in the Media Center
- 2/26 - S.T.A.R. Wednesday for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- 2/27 – Book Fair Night & Chorus/Steel Band Perform 6PM
- 2/28 – Group and Class Pictures
- 3/4 - S.T.A.R. Wednesday for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
- 3/4 - FSA Reading Practice for 3<sup>rd</sup>, Writing Practice for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>
- 3/10 – SAC Meeting at 3:30PM in the Media Center  
Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A 5:30-7:30PM
- 3/13 – NO SCHOOL – Teacher Planning Day
- 3/16-3/20 – Spring Break – No School

## FSA Testing:

The spring testing dates for FSA have been determined and are listed below.

### March

- 3/4 – FSA Reading Practice Test for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
FSA Writing Practice Test for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### April

- 4/1 – FSA Reading Grade 3 (Session 1)
- 4/2 – FSA Reading Grade 3 (Session 2)  
FSA Writing Grades 4 and 5
- 4/8 – FSA Reading Practice Test for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 4/14 – iReady Diagnostic opens for Grades K to 5 (closes May 22)  
*Note: Last day for FSA make-ups is 4/15.*
- 4/22 – FSA Math Practice Test for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades

### May

- 5/1 to 5/22 - iReady Diagnostic continues for Grades K to 5
- 5/4 – FSA Reading Grades 4 and 5 (Session 1)
- 5/5 – FSA Reading Grades 4 and 5 (Session 2)
- 5/7 – FSA Math Grades 3, 4, 5 (Session 1)
- 5/8 – FSA Math Grades 3, 4, 5 (Session 2)
- 5/11 – SSA Science Grade 5 (Session 1)
- 5/12 – SSA Science Grade 5 (Session 2)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers to help proctor on all FSA testing days. If you can volunteer some of your time, please call Maggie Puch at the front desk to be added to our volunteer list. 904-547-8440. Any help is appreciated.



## PENNY WARS

**Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Students can bring in change or cash to help their grade-level fill their "Mason" jar.

Each coin is worth one point.  
The grade-level with the most points will win.

All \$\$\$ goes to our Safety Patrols.

## VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY GRAMS

This VALENTINE'S DAY show your friends, teachers and loved ones how much they mean to you with a hand-delivered candy gram!

All Proceeds go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Candy Grams will be available for purchase for **\$0.50** starting February 3<sup>rd</sup> - February 13<sup>th</sup>. Candy Grams will be passed out on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks out to Mason Elementary School.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



# Announcements

## Elective Interest Survey for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders heading to Gamble Rogers Middle –

2020 6th Grade Elective Form, for current 5th graders, can be found at <https://forms.gle/XYqJ3VdavQBvLzzS7>.

## Mason Yearbook Orders –

Don't miss out on your chance to order a yearbook! All yearbook order forms are due February 21<sup>st</sup>. Please make sure to send in the form and payment. Yearbooks can also be ordered online at [www.leonards.com/yearbooks](http://www.leonards.com/yearbooks). Our online access code is C480557.

## Parent Needs Assessment Survey –

Each year, we are required to administer a School Advisory Committee (SAC) survey to all parents in order to receive feedback about your child's education and our school. We use the results to help create goals for our School Improvement Plan for the next school year. The survey link can be found at the top of our school webpage or you can type the following web address into your internet browser: <https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=98L0458K>  
All surveys are anonymous. If you do not have access to the internet, please ask your child's teacher for a paper copy and one will be sent home.

As an added incentive, if you return the bottom portion of this paper signed, stating you have completed the survey by March 12, 2020, your family will be entered into a random drawing sponsored by PTO to win 1 of 4 gift cards to enjoy a movie, dinner, or another fun outing for your family. Winners will be notified after spring break. We will also have a grade level competition. The class with the most surveys submitted in each grade level will win a class treat.

**If you have multiple students at Mason, please fill out a survey and return a slip for each student.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Austin, [torei.austin@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:torei.austin@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or Ms. Jones, [virginia.jones@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:virginia.jones@stjohns.k12.fl.us).  
We look forward to receiving your feedback. Thank you!

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## SAC Survey Form Completion – Due March 12<sup>th</sup>

Yes, I completed the SAC survey.

Student name/teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My student has siblings at Mason. Their NAMES and TEACHERS are:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you so much for your feedback on our SAC survey!**

\*\*\*Please fill out a slip for EACH student and have him/her return it to his/her teacher.\*\*\*

### **Food from Hugs–**

Hugs Across the County has stocked our food pantry with non-perishable easy to fix food items. If you need a bag of assorted items sent home please contact Kathy Hamill, school counselor.

### **Flu Season Prevention –**

As you may be aware, it is Flu season. While we cannot stop the flu, we can do things to prevent it's spread in our school community. Please keep a watchful eye and if your child is showing any signs of illness, like fever with cough, body aches, congestion, headache please have them checked by their physician. If they test positive for anything like Flu or Strep, which are very common, early treatment can make a big difference in their recovery time. Your student will need to remain home until they are cleared by their doctor and if they are fever free without medication for 24 hours. We all know that illness is common and we can manage it together! Please be reassured that we do all we can here at Mason to keep them safe and healthy. Nurse Johna is available anytime by email and school hours by phone. Reach out if you have any concerns or questions. - Nurse Johna

### **2020 Gamble Rogers Football Tryout Schedule –**

Monday, March 23 – Tryout Day One: 4:00-5:15PM

Tuesday, March 24 – Tryout Day Two: 4:00-5:15PM (First cuts announced)

Wednesday, March 25 – Tryout Day Three: 5:00-6:30pm

Thursday, March 26 – Tryout Day Four: 4:00-5:15PM (Team announced)

You must register to tryout at <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1771621>  
Register ASAP (Registration is capped at 50 kids).

Tryouts are mandatory, even if players were on the team last season.

Current elementary school students that are attending GRMS in the fall are invited and encouraged to tryout. In the past we have had several sixth graders start on the GRMS football team.

Current elementary school students can attend tryouts from 4:00-5:15pm because of their school schedule. If you need to adjust this time please contact Coach Potak.

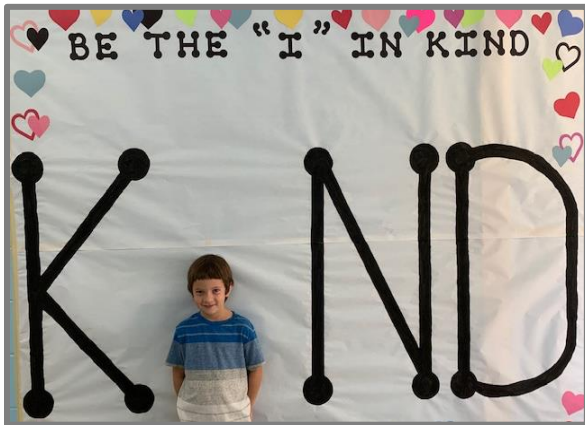
Wear cleats and athletic clothing to tryouts.

If your child is playing a spring or winter sport (basketball, baseball, lacrosse), GRMS can help adjust the tryout schedule. Please contact Coach Potak through email.

Please contact Coach Potak with any questions about the tryout process.

Email: [m\\_potak@yahoo.com](mailto:m_potak@yahoo.com)

*Some of our "Firsties" posing with our "Be the I in KIND" wall*



## From the Mason PTO

### **Spirit Rock!**

Do you want to do something special for your child, recognizing a birthday or accomplishment? Show appreciation to your favorite teacher or staff member...Our spirit rock is a great way to send a message for all to see! All reservations are made online only using our reservation Sign Up Genius on the Otis Mason PTO website and the fee is just \$20.

<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/pto/spirit-rock/>

### **Misc PTO Update:**

Spirit Wear: Otis Mason Spirit Wear is available to purchase! Show your Manatee pride in a new t-shirt or sweatshirt. Order forms are available at the school and we have many items in stock!

Socks \$8   Shirts \$10   Long Sleeve \$15   Hoodie \$20

# Repeated Announcements

## Interpreter Requests –

If you are in need of an interpreter for an event at Mason, we ask you to send a request in writing at least two weeks in advance of the event. The school and/or district will arrange for the interpreter but we need your help in asking to notify us as far in advance as you can. Please communicate these requests with your child's teacher and the Assistant Principal ([Jill.Hillier@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jill.Hillier@stjohns.k12.fl.us)).

We also ask that you let us know as soon as possible if you need to cancel a prearranged interpreter. This is an additional expense to the SJCSO so we appreciate your consideration and helping us to be conscious of these costs.

## Special Celebrations –

We love to celebrate when there is a special occasion! However, we ask that you please follow these guidelines if your child is celebrating while at school:

- Treats must be cookies, brownies, or anything sweet that is **ICING FREE** and **PRE-PACKAGED**. **No cupcakes, regular cakes, cookie cakes, or home-baked goods will be permitted.**
- Treats may only be shared with your child's classmates and teacher.
- If needed, napkins, plates and/or utensils should be provided to the teacher.
- Communicate with your child's teacher about when you would like to bring something in, what you will be bringing and check if there are any allergies in the class.
- No balloons or banners are permitted. Special shirts or buttons are allowed.
- Birthday invitations must include everyone in the class if they are being handed out at school.

## SJCSO Revised Service Animal Policy –

- The school district has revised its policy for service animals in schools. The St. Johns County School District permits the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability and will not engage in any act or practice that has the purpose or effect of discrimination against an individual with a disability in the use of a service animal in accordance with Title II (28 C.F.R. 35.104, 35.136). For more information, please visit the SJCSO or Mason websites.

## P.E. News –

- In order to promote healthy food snack choices, the Physical Education (PE) Department needs your help. To provide a reward system in PE for the Manatee money students are earning at school, we will be giving out "healthy snacks" that the students can "buy" when they come to PE class. Everything will be in self-contained small packaging and will not require refrigeration. We are looking for the following donations to make this reward system work:
  - Trail Mix
  - Cereal Bars/Granola bars
  - Popped/Baked Snacks (pretzels, chips, popcorn, Cheetos, etc.)
  - Sweet & Salty mix snacks
  - Gummy Fruit Snacks

Thanks very much,  
Mason PE Coaches

## Dismissal Changes

If you are changing the way your child normally goes home, please contact the school in one of three ways: a note in the planner, written note from home, or via the Dismissal Change link on our Mason homepage.

<https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=mes-dismissal>

Dismissal changes **will not be accepted** after 2:15PM/1:15PM on Weds. unless there is an emergency in which case you must call to confirm the change has been received.

## Volunteers and Visitors

In an ongoing effort to provide safety and security for students and staff, **all visitors and volunteers MUST complete a "School Access Form"** with the SJCSO. The form can be found at <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>. If a person does not apply for school access or has been denied access, he/she will NOT be permitted to enter the school building or attend special events during the school day. **Those that have applied and are approved must present a valid ID and wear a printed name badge to enter the building.**

We are always seeking volunteers! Please sign up in KeepnTrack and contact Mrs. Puch at 547-8440 for information on how you can assist our school.