



Dear Manatee Families,

2/23/2026

It's that time of year again for Manatee Students to participate in the **Kids Heart Challenge - Jump Rope for Heart (JR4H)**, our annual community service project to raise funds for the **American Heart Association (AHA)**! This year marks the 47th Year of the National Campaign, and the 22nd consecutive year that **Mason Elementary has participated**. **During the past 21 years, Manatees have raised over \$300,000** to fund research, necessary equipment for patients, and educational materials to help students learn about how the body works and how to care for personal wellness. **Way to go, Manatees!** Over the next few weeks, your child(ren) will learn about their Heart-Health, practice Jump-Rope Skills, and practice balance and timing through a variety of "Jump Stations". This is a great **opportunity to give back to the community while helping earn an AHA School Donation and some much needed PE equipment for our school. Definitely a "Win Win!!!"**

The 2026 Kids Heart Challenge - Jump Rope for Heart Fundraising Campaign will run from **Monday, February 23 – Thursday, March 12, 2026**. **During the dates of March 5 – March 12, we will conduct our Kids Heart Challenge - Jump Rope for Heart Class Events during regularly scheduled P.E. Classes.** All students will get to participate in fun activities and the **Jump Rope for Heart Celebration**. Students may wear an Honor Heart (provided) to jump **"In Honor"** of someone they know who has been affected by heart disease. **Please send in Gummy Fruit Snacks for a station rotation for your child's class event.**

Last year, Otis A. Mason Elementary School, our small, rural elementary school, was the Top Fundraiser in St. Johns County, raising \$25,300 and one of the top schools in the state. Amazing! Our goal this year is to raise \$28,000. The donation envelope your child is bringing home is an invitation for your family to discuss the impact of heart disease. Please ask family and friends to support your child's participation by making contributions. **Checks should be made payable to: American Heart Association.** We ask that children not go door-to-door or ask strangers for donations. Please help us save lives by being a part of this important community service project.

We encourage supporters to **donate online using this Barcode:**



Please help your child join the Otis Mason Elementary Online Team and create his/her own web page with the tools provided online. Your child can include a message about why he or she is participating. You can also send an e-card through this system. **It's fun, safe, and the easiest way to raise funds – get online and check it out! Regardless of how you participate, please have your child return the donation envelope to school on Thursday, March 12, 2025.** If you would like additional information or to **volunteer** to help make our event bigger and better, please do not hesitate to contact Coach Hollister. (Contact info. next pg.) Otis A. Mason Elementary and the American Heart Association thank you and your child for your support.

Fundraising Guidelines:

- *Please remind your child NOT to collect door-to-door.
- *Checks should be made payable to: “American Heart Association”
- *Donation Collection Envelopes should ONLY be turned in on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Important “***Kids Heart Challenge - Jump Rope 4 Heart***” (JR4H) Dates:

***Feb. 23 – Mar. 12, 2026: KHC – JR4H 2026 Campaign**

“Kick-off” on Monday, February 23 during ALL Scheduled Resource Class Rotations. Students bring home info. and donation envelope. Students raise sponsorship money for the campaign. If possible, please set up an online (webpage) ability to receive donations. This has become the "secret to success" way of schools easily meeting/surpassing their schoolwide goals.

***Thursday, Mar. 5 - Thursday, Mar. 12, 2026: KHC – JR4H Class Events**

Students will participate in our school's designated Jump Rope 4 Heart Class Events during regularly scheduled PE Classes on:

Thursday, Mar. 5: “E” Day; Friday, Mar. 6: “A” Day; Monday, Mar. 9: “B” Day; Tuesday, Mar. 10: “C” Day; Thursday, Mar. 12: “D” Day; (**See attached page with Teacher Names and their assigned days.**) Students may elect to Jump "In Honor" of someone, living or deceased, affected by heart disease. Honor Hearts will be provided at school. Please encourage students to wear sneakers/tennis shoes; wear a previous year's JR4H T-shirt, Mason Shirt, or "Red" shirt; and bring in some Gummy Fruit Snacks to share with their class as a station rotation during the class event.

Thursday, March 12, 2026: All **KHC – JR4H** Donation Collection Envelopes should **ONLY** be turned in on this date. **Checks Should Be Made Payable to “American Heart Association”...**

Thank you all for your help facilitating this important community service project. You are essential to the process and we appreciate your positivity and encouragement which we're certain will yield terrific results.

Otis A Mason Elementary
Coach Hollister, PE

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**Otis A. Mason Elementary School
2026 Kids Heart Challenge - Jump Rope for Heart Incentives**

“Thank You” Gifts - Students can earn up to 12 Donation Levels of Thank You Gifts from the AHA. (See back of the Donation Envelope.)

“Slime Time / Cold Splash” Challenge:

If we meet our Schoolwide Goal of \$28,000, eligible students will get to participate as follows:

***Raise \$150: Dump a Cup of “Slime” on a Willing Manatee Staff Member**

***Raise \$100: Dump a Cup of Cold Water on a “Willing” Manatee Staff Member**

Note: All Students will get to watch the event!

“Special Bingo”: Students who raise \$125 or more will be invited to a Special Bingo Game held in the Multi-purpose Room to win some cool prizes.

“Grade-Level Challenge”: The Top Classroom in each Grade-Level for Registered Students Online will earn a \$25 Amazon Gift Card.

“King & Queen of Hearts”: Boy & Girl who raises the most money - *\$20 Gift Card to Cold Cow Ice Cream.

“Prince & Princess of Hearts”: Boy & Girl who earns the most sponsors - *\$10 Gift Card to Cold Cow Ice Cream.

“Additional PE Donation”: If 50% of our families register, our school will earn an additional \$500 in US Games gift certificates to further support physical activity and the health of our students, families, and staff.

“Complete Finn’s Mission”: Any student that completes Finn’s Mission this year will receive a Finn’s Mission Lifesaver’s Cape.

“Kingdom of Hearts” - Class which raises the most money:

***All students and Teacher(s) sign this year’s JR4H Banner and display it in their classroom for the remainder of the school year.**

***Extra Planning Period for Teacher and Bonus PE Class for students (Provided by the Coaches)**

2026 KHC – JR4H Class Event Dates during PE 1:

Please send in:

***A box of individually-packaged Gummy Fruit Snacks**

***The name of someone to honor who has been affected by heart disease**

***Wear sneakers/tennis shoes and a previous-year KHC – JR4H Heart T-Shirt, or a Red Shirt or a Mason Manatee T-Shirt.**

Thursday, March 5 “E” Day:

Tatman (2), Tanner/Said/ESE MASC Split (1), Nicodemus (K), Saullo (3), White (4), Steen (5)

Friday, March 6 “A” Day

Taylor (2), Villarreal/Said ESE MASC Split (1), Hanson (K), Cunningham (3), Ziegenfuss (4), Thompson (5)

Monday, March 9 “B” Day

Eggert (2), Jarrett/McKenna (Pre-K), Miller/Said Split, Lepera (K), Tedder (4), Jaffa (5)

Tuesday, March 10 “C” Day

Sadler (2), Montgomery/Hale (Pre-K), Austin/Said/MASC Split (1), Babineau (K), Nguyen (3), Ward-Kosofsky (4), Barricklow (5)

Thursday, March 12 “D” Day

Jones (2), Burchfield/Sartain (Pre-K), Sellers/Said Split (1), Lois (K), Anderson/Mercurio (3), Noel (4), Byrd (5)