



Happy
Halloween

The Manatee News

Otis A. Mason Elementary

"Where We Educate the Future"



207 Mason Manatee Way
St. Augustine, FL 32086
Tel: 547-8440
Fax: 547-8445

KIM DIXON

Principal

MATT JAMES

Assistant

Principal

School Office Hours:

8:00 AM
to
4:00 PM

School Hours:

8:30 AM
to
2:50 PM

EARLY

RELEASE

EVERY

WEDNESDAY

1:50 P.M.

School Spirit Day

EVERY Friday is School Spirit Day at Mason Elementary! Wear your manatee shirt and/or school colors (**Teal & Gray**) to show your school spirit!

Mason Homepage:

<http://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us>



Character Counts at Mason!

MASON HAPPENINGS

October

24th-No School/Teacher Planning Day

25th-Deadline to submit Box Tops

25th-28th-Red Ribbon Week

27th Field Trip to Barnes Farm-2nd

Grade/AR Parent Night 3-6pm/

Volunteer Work Day

28th-Fall Festival 6-8:30pm

31st-Report Cards Issued

November

3rd-First Grade Field Trip to Theatre Works/
4th Grade Music Field Trip

4th-Student Council Election Rally 9am

7th-Daylight Savings Time-Fall Back 1 hour

10th-Scholastic Book Fair 5pm/Mason Taste
of St. Augustine 6pm

11th-Veteran's Day-No School

17th-Holiday Luncheon Grades K, 1st, 2nd /

SAC Meeting 3:15/3rd, 4th, 5th Field

Trip to University of North Florida

23rd-25th-Thanksgiving Break

Important Reminders!

*On Wednesday's, there is a different lunch schedule due to Team Wednesdays, please see the school website or click [here](#) to see your child's lunch schedule.

* Student checkouts or transportation changes are not allowed after 2:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday AND 1:30 on Wednesdays.

*A.M./P.M child care & after school programs are available through Extended Day. Call Melinda Stevens at 547-8449 for information.

*All visitors and volunteers visiting St. Johns County Schools are required to sign in at the front office to receive a visitor or volunteer badge. Please be prepared to show ID.

*If your child will be taking any medications at school, including over the counter medications, please contact our school nurse, Tabitha Danson, at 547-8444. A medication form signed by a doctor is required & can be located on the clinic's website [here](#) or in the clinic.

Administrative Corner

Hello Manatee Family,

Believe it or not, we've reached the end of the 1st quarter! Our teachers and students are busy working hard preparing our students for mastery of the Common Core Standards (CCS) and New Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). We will be hosting several opportunities for our families to learn more about the curriculum and teaching methods soon. Please check the website and your child's backpack for announcements.

Monday, October 24, 2011, is a student holiday. Consider giving your child the opportunity to participate in a service learning activity in the community. We would love to hear about our students exhibiting good citizenship, so let us know if they do.

We hope to see all of our families on Friday, October 28, 2011, for the annual Fall Festival. More information about festival activities, tickets and prizes is included in the newsletter so be sure to read on. Our PTA coordinates the fun for this event and we appreciate their efforts. Please show your appreciation by joining the Mason PTA before November 1st. Our goal this year is 100% participation by this date.

Finally, there are a couple of important items I'd like to remind our parents about. Parents are asked to sign in at the office and receive a volunteer badge before entering the main area of the school. We also ask that teachers are notified in advance if you plan to visit their classrooms. Visits should not occur during student contact time. This includes delivering items to class, walking students to class, and going to classes to speak with teachers in the morning.

To date, we have over 700 tardies recorded! Of these tardies, more than 50 students have been tardy 5 or more times. There is a direct relationship between poor attendance/tardiness and class failure. When your child is tardy to school, valuable learning time is lost to him/her. When your child is late, there is a disruption in the teaching/learning situation which is unfair to the teacher and the other students. Therefore, it is imperative that all children arrive at school by 8:25 a.m. All except the main outer doors are locked at this time and students must be walked into the building and signed in at the front office desk. Please do not enter the bus loop to drop students off. You must park in designated parking areas and escort your child to the office.

Your child's safety is our #1 concern. Please help us keep our children safe and teach them to be responsible, educated and caring contributors of our school and our world.

Go Manatees!

Mrs. Dixon, Principal

Student Council Elections

Students will be campaigning from October 25th-November 4th for President, Vice President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Treasurer until November 4th. Then we will have our Rally and Speeches in the Multi-Purpose Room on Friday, November 4th @ 9:30 a.m. Students in 3rd-5th grade will have the opportunity to use real-life voting skills to vote for their candidates using the voting booths from St. Johns County Office of Elections, just like their parents use....Real-world Civics/Government opportunities for our students!!!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!



Let's see who wins the party this time!!!!

Attention Parents!

There are field trips being planned for the school year. Just a reminder that if you want to attend a field trip with your student whether you ride on the bus or meet them there you **MUST** be an approved volunteer. You can apply on our [school website](#). If you do not have access to a computer, then please see the front office. If you do choose to meet your child at the field trip location, you have to come to the school to check in beforehand. The application process takes approximately 2 weeks, so please fill out the application in a timely manner. You must also be an approved volunteer to eat lunch with your child or to walk your child to the classroom. **There are no exceptions.** We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the safety of the students here at Mason. Once you are approved, your application is valid for 3 years.

Volunteer Opportunities



October 27th - Volunteer Work Day 8:30-2:50 **COME AND GO AS YOU WISH.**

October 28th - Fall Festival 5:00pm-8:00pm

Every Friday from 11:45-1:30: Manatee Money Cart in the cafeteria.

Please make sure you have an approved volunteer application on file. A link to the application can be found on the [school webpage](#). You may also email Brittany at otismasonvolunteer@gmail.com to check your status.

School Bus Safety Week

Mason Manatees would like to express our sincere appreciation to our bus drivers for the important role they serve in safely transporting our students to and from school! In honor of School Bus Safety Week, we showed our appreciation by serving them breakfast & giving them a gift thanks to our PTA.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations!



Pre-K/VPK - Dominique Smith, Jamal Hendrix, Audrey Conrad, Amelia Coronado, Landon Benchoff, Adel Rose McLeod

K - Brooke Biermann, Ethan Carrasquillo, Alina Mauch, Maddux Carregal, Alexander Emery, Anna Brownworth, Joseph Waddle, Lillian Nemecek, Gavin Downey, Jacqueline Mishoe, Peyton Jones, Darius Rogers

1st - Megan Storms, Issac Helfrich, Neely Taylor, Nathaniel Watts, Frankie Morabito, Tara Robison, Angelena Hubbard, Joey Lepera, Logan Robinson, Grace Ivey, Christian Martin, Lorelai Kissling, Brady Dugan, Ellie Johnston

2nd - La'Mya Floyd, Konner Kight, Donald Harris, Mattie Gallagher, Connor Strickland, Elliot Myer, Cole Strickland, Chase Spilling, Angelina Garay, Savanna Briggs, Donique Harris, Ethan Church

3rd - Jordan Alcorn, Noah Billeter, Logan Key, Thomas Bonfanti, Emily Fischer, Damian Davis, Marlee Dillinger, Chase Kaye, Brennen Willoughby, Nicholas Wiberly, Joshua Mosely, Teriah Raggins

4th - Demajah Garden, Christopher Powell, Alohnna Lee, Layton Guzman, Cailee Watkins, Cody Wilson

5th - Jayla Billeter, Casey O'Neal, Jillian Almstead, Christian Pacetti, Rachel Armstrong, Carlton Brown, Lily Ghela, Aundrea Hairston, Kylee Longo, Andre Robinson

Music - Nayla Reyes, Wesley Outman

Art - Shimar Walden, Maryn Walker

PE - Rudy White, Ashley Loeffler



MANATEE CAFÉ MENU FOR OCTOBER 25TH-NOVEMBER 4TH

Tuesday, 25th - Macaroni & Cheese with choice of bread **OR** Steamed Broccoli Florets, 100% fruit sidekick

Wednesday, 26th - Beef Quesadilla Max **OR** Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Whole Kernel Corn, Fresh Sliced Apples

Thursday, 27th - Chef Boyardee with choice of bread **OR** BBQ Chicken with choice of bread, vegetable blend, pineapple tidbits

Friday, 28th - Fish Nuggets with choice of bread **OR** Assorted Pizza, Green Beans, Sliced Strawberries

Monday, 31st - Popcorn Chicken with choice of bread **OR** Corn Dog on a Stick, Tater Tots, Sliced Peaches

Tuesday, 1st - Spaghetti & Meat Sauce with garlic breadstick **OR** Grilled Chicken Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bun

Wednesday, 2nd - Tacos with lettuce, tomato, cheese cup **OR** Assorted Pizzas, Whole Kernel Corn, 100% Fruit SideKick

Thursday, 3rd - Cheeseburger on a Bun **OR** Oven Baked Chicken with choice of bread, Baked Beans, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle Cup, Applesauce

Friday, 4th - Chicken Nuggets with choice of bread **OR** Hot Dog on a Bun, Oven Baked Potato Fries, Mixed Fruit Cup

Become a Surrogate parent for an Exceptional Student in our Community

A surrogate parent is a person who is appointed to act in the interests of an exceptional student who does not have a parent who can make educational decisions. The surrogate parent works with the school to plan the child's special education services.

A surrogate parent does not take care of the child at home, like an adoptive parent or foster parent does. A surrogate parent is not financially responsible for the child. A surrogate parent is more like a "school parent"—involved only in planning and making decisions about the child's special education.

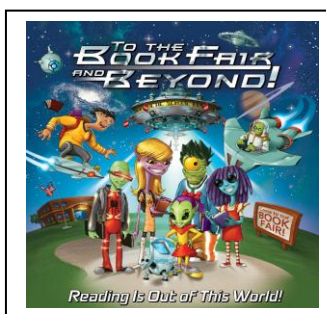
We will be conducting training on **Nov. 4, 2011, from 9:00 – 11:00 am**, at the District Office, 40 Orange Street. If you are 18 years old, a resident of Florida and are not an employee of the district, please attend this training. Call Susan Wells at 547-7772 to register.

Happenings in Our Community

Flagler Athletics is hosting a Friends of Flagler Night on Saturday, October 22nd at 5pm at the Saints Field located at 1655 Old Moultrie. Men's & Women's Soccer Take on Clayton State. ALL St. John's County Students Get in FREE with ID! Special Halftime Games & Prizes!

Don't Miss the Pumpkin Plunge! Join us Saturday, October 29th 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Solomon Calhoun Center pool for a pumpkin plunge, a fun-filled family event. We'll bring the games, snacks and refreshments – all you need is a swim suit and the desire to have fun!

Media Center News



Scholastic Fall Book Fair

Our book fair is just a little over 2 weeks away! Our students will have the opportunity to preview and purchase at the book fair beginning Wednesday, Nov. 2nd through Nov. 14th. More information will be coming home in the next couple of weeks. Our Family Night is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 10th from 5 – 8:30 p.m. and will be taking place in conjunction with our PTA's Taste of St. Augustine, so it will be a great evening to come out and enjoy the festive atmosphere! We are still looking for some of our awesome parent volunteers to help volunteer during the book fair, so if you are available, please fill out the volunteer forms that went home last week and send them back to Mrs. Milian.

Accelerated Reader News

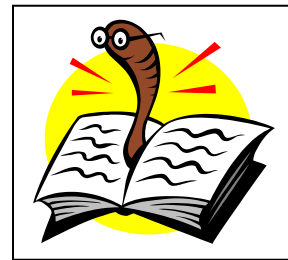
Our AR program is running full speed ahead and our students are doing a **FANTASTIC** job reading those AR books and earning those AR points. Just to keep you aware of some upcoming important dates, please make note of the following. This year we will be hosting 4 **AR Cafés** in our media center. Every quarter, students will have the opportunity to start with a clean slate and earn a spot in the AR Café. This quarter will end on Friday, Oct. 21st. The students will need the following number of points to be invited to AR Café for the 1st quarter.

1 st grade	8 points (1 st quarter only)
2 nd grade	15 points
3 rd grade	20 points
4 th grade	25 points
5 th grade	30 points

Please keep in mind that these points are for the 1st quarter only. The new quarter begins on Tue., Oct. 25th. All the students began at "0" again and will have another opportunity to earn these points and earn a spot in the AR Café for the 2nd quarter. The first AR Café will take place on Friday, October 28th, and the students who have earned a spot will receive their invitations early next week.

AR Parent Night

Our AR Parent Night will be this upcoming Thurs., Oct. 27th from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. The media center will be open and available for you to come with your child and find some great AR books and take AR quizzes as the children work towards earning their points for this year. Please save the date and come by school with your child to spend some time together reading some fantastic books. See you then!



PTA NEWS

**Otis Mason Elementary Annual Fall Festival- Friday, October 28th from 6-8:30pm.
Join us for a night of Family, Food & Fun!!!**



Students, please wear your school appropriate costumes to the event. No weapons allowed. Remember Safety First!

Please help us make this the best Fall Festival ever by volunteering to work a booth. We can't do it without you. Also remember to send in booth donations to your child's classroom by Friday, Oct. 21st!

We are still looking for \$25 business or family booth sponsorships. Sponsorship includes displaying your (school appropriate) banner and company brochures/literature during the festival. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to the PTA at otismasonpta@yahoo.com or send a note in to your child's teacher including a phone number so we can contact you.

Advance tickets are on sale Friday Oct. 14- Friday, Oct. 21st. If you requested to pick your tickets up at Will Call, the Will Call booth will be located at the Volunteer check-in booth during the festival. Game & Food tickets will be 4 for \$1.00 or 25 for \$5.00 or 50 for \$10.00

So come get your hair colored, or perhaps you would like a tattoo,
No Fall Festival would be complete without a DJ playing for you.

How about Pin the Stem on the Pumpkin or even the Lollipop game,
But you must try Dig if you Dare and the Goo Booth, we proclaim!

You might like the Eyeball Toss or the Stinky Egg Roll,
Of course playing a Minute to Win It game might be your goal.

The Pumpkin Toss and Ping Pong Squirt are always lots of fun,
I bet the Haunted Hallway will make you runnnnnnn.

With the DJ set up outside, you can dance the night away under the stars,
No matter what game you choose, you will probably get some chocolate bars.

There will be Nail Polishing and Glow Sticks and of course lots of prizes too,
So come join us for a burger and some chips, you know a good time with your family is long overdue.

In return for your donation to the PTA, we will also have some drawings for a laptop computer or 19" TV, Sea World tickets, Bowling Parties and more. Donation tickets will be on sale at the Fall Festival. If you need more information contact otismasonpta@yahoo.com

ARE YOU READING THIS??? Parents if you have read this far... CONGRATULATIONS! You have proven you are interested in what is going on at OME! As a reward to you and your student, please go back with your student and count how many times you see the word **"student or students"** throughout the newsletter. You can print and return slip below or write the information on a piece of paper.

Return to teacher no later than Friday October 28th for your child's name to be entered in a drawing to win a prize on Monday, October 31st!

✂-----

STUDENT NAME: _____ TEACHER/GRADE: _____

WE FOUND THE WORD "student or students" this many times: My guess is _____.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____