The Parent "O"bserver

2/27/26 -- Edition 9, Volume 11

New Items Added to the Newsletter that are Important

Update on the Construction of the New Building

Originally, we were told that we would be moving into the new building over Winter Break. Then it was changed to Spring Break. However, with the current delays, the intense weather conditions, we have now had this date pushed back a little more and we are just waiting to hear the new date. So, we will NOT be moving into the new building this school year. I hope to have this information updated for me again soon.

Updated SOL Practice Items-Updated SOL practice items for Grades 3-8 and End-of-Course Math and Reading tests were recently released by VDOE. These practice items will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions that will be administered to assess new standards in reading and math. These practice item sets include new item types that will be field-tested in Spring 2025. Field test items are used to collect data and do not count towards a student's overall test scores.

https://download.pearsonaccessnext.com/virginia/va-practicetest.html?links=1

Pre-K Registration

Families apply online by completing an Online Application. (Spanish version). Applications may also be completed in-person or via phone. Families should call the preschool office with any questions.

Email:
PreKPrograms@pwcs.edu
Phone: 703-791-8708

Please note:
Check list of schools served.

- The preschool program has income limits. To review, please visit: www.pwcs.edu/headstart

- During the online application, families are asked to upload proof of family income, a copy of child's birth certificate, and at least one proof of address. Other information will be requested if a child is accepted. For more information on the application process, acceptance, and school enrollment, visit: www.pwcs.edu/academics___programs/head_start/how_to_apply
- Selections begin in April and continue until classes are lled.

New Bus Tracking

There will be a new bus tracking app used this school year for you to be able to track your child's bus more reliably. Information about EZ A2B can be found on the EZ A2B webpage.

Items that Will Always be Relevant forParents to Review

SchoolQuality Profile (AKA: SOL Results)

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released the annual Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) test results and updated the School Quality Profile. We are well on our way to fully recovering from the pandemic. Occoquan has scored some of the highest scores in Reading and Math. Our African-American scores are what I am most proud of, as we have now surpassed the achievement gap in this category. PWCS will work diligently to support continued academic progress, acceleration, and recovery.

Dismissal Times

Students are no longer allowed to be dismissed from the office between the times of 3:30 and 4:00 due to disruptions to the dismissal process. If you need to pick your child up early, you will need to do so before 3:30. Otherwise, you will need to wait until 4:10 to come into the office to pick them up.

Late Bus Information

Transportation's Late Bus Notification web page is now available for parents and schools. The page will list buses that will be late 15 minutes or more to start their run. Please save the link below to review it:

https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/transportation/bus_delays

Bus App

There will be a new bus tracking app used this school year for you to be able to track your child's bus more reliably. Information about EZ A2B can be found on the EZ A2B webpage.

Free Mental Health Care

PWCS recognizes that this time of year can be particularly challenging for many students. To ensure that every student has access to the support they need, we would like to remind parents that free mental health telehealth services are available to all PWCS students through Hazel Health – at no cost. Together, we can make a significant difference in the mental well-being of our students now and beyond.

Visit the PWCS Hazel Health webpage for more information.

Continuous Improvement Plan

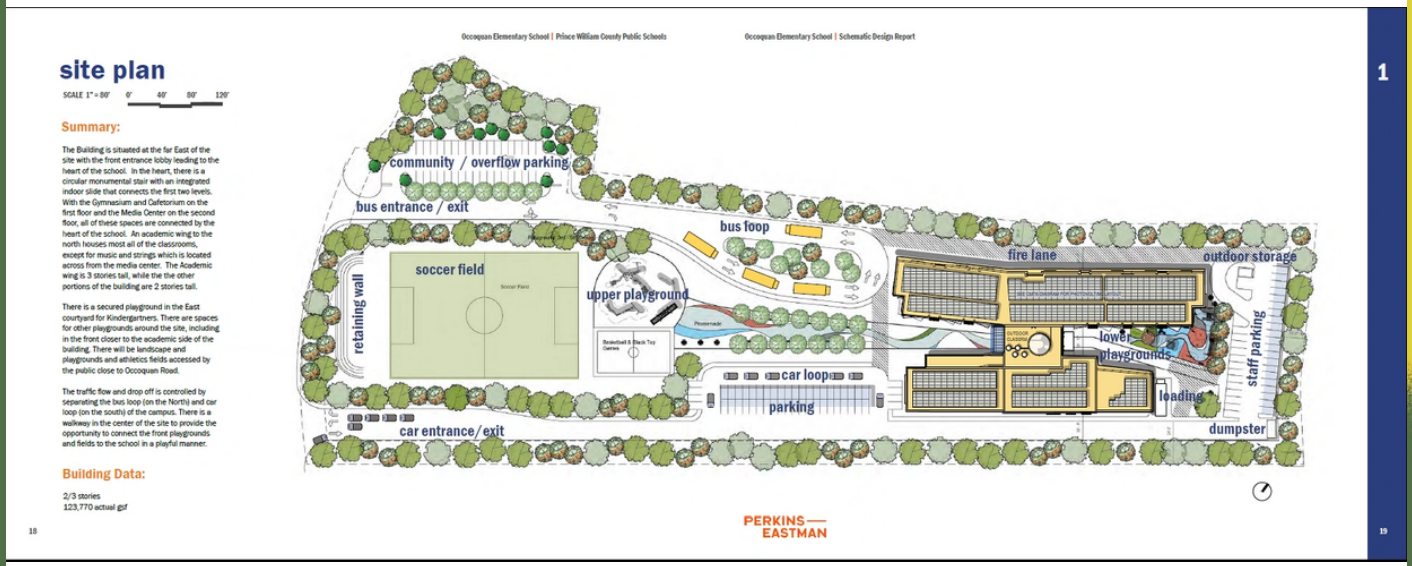
Our ambitious Continuous Improvement Plan ensures we are on the right track to navigate the journey back to pre-pandemic levels by investing in our instructional core, maintaining high expectations to ensure academic excellence, and strengthening infrastructures along the way toward greater equitable and accessible academic achievement for all students.

Please click the link below to take a look at the plan in what will be some of its final stages.

PDF **CIP for Occoquan 2025-26.pdf** Download 1.2 MB

Construction on the New Building

Construction on Occoquan's new building began recently when they started digging two of the one-hundred-ten holes they will need to dig for our geothermal energy. It has been an exciting time. The students are predicted to move into the building in December 2025. The new building will be located on the grass behind the playground. Construction will officially begin in June 2024, but they will continue to work on some of the other aspects that take a little longer well before that time frame.



Title I Information

Key information for Title I

- Please be sure to check out the Occoquan school compact for information about Title I (it is the document directly above), staff agreements, student agreements, and parent agreements, as well as our goals for the year in reading and math.
- Reading support is provided through small-group instruction and before and after-school tutoring.

- Math support is provided through small-group instruction, co-teaching lessons with the classroom teacher, before and after-school tutoring, and one-on-one individual support for math intervention.
- Thank you for supporting our awesome Occoquan students!

PARENTAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION ABOUT TEACHERS:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, most recently reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act, states that parents in Title I schools have the right to request certain information about their child's teachers. The information that you have a right to request about your child's teacher is:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subjects the teacher is teaching.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing has been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

At Occoquan ES, we are extremely proud of our teachers and paraprofessionals, and are happy to provide you with any of the information above pertaining to your child's teacher(s). If you have such a request, please call the school at 703.494.2195 and ask for the information you are interested in.

Parental Opt Out of Assessments

Parental Notification of Assessment Opt Out Policies under The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 According to the Virginia Department of Education, "All students in tested grade levels and courses are expected to participate in Virginia's assessment program, unless specifically exempted by state or federal law or by Board of Education regulations." On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not currently have an Opt Out policy for SOL assessments. However, Section 22.1-253.13:3.Cof the Code of Virginia states that, "The Board of Education shall not include in its calculation of the passage rate of a Standards of Learning assessment for the purposes of state accountability any student whose parent has decided to not have his child take such Standards of Learning assessment, unless such exclusions would result in the school's not meeting any required state or federal participation rate." Prince William County Public Schools regulations state that, if a parent or guardian decides to not have a student take a state or local assessment, then the person making the request should be informed about the academic consequences that decision could have on the student.

If you would like to receive more information about this topic, please contact the principal.

Grade Level Newsletters

Grade Level Newsletters

Please click on the grade level below that your child(ren) is in order to read their specific information from their teachers.

Grade Levels update their information once a month.

Kindergarten

1st Grade

2nd Grade

3rd Grade

4th Grade

5th Grade

Gifted

The En"CORNER"

EL Department

Special Education Department

Music Club Page

Strings

Important Event Dates

Event Information
Spring Book Fair Week
When?
Monday, Mar 9, 2026, 09:00 AM

Event Information
MOD Pizza Day
When?
Wednesday, Mar 11, 2026, 11:00 AM

Event Information
SOL Test for 5th Grade
When?
Wednesday, Mar 18, 2026, 09:45 AM

Event Information
Lockdown Drill inside the School
When?
Thursday, Mar 19, 2026, 03:15 PM

Event Information
PTO/Advisory
Michael P. Lint is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Advisory/PTO
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting https://pwcs-zm-edu.zoom.us/j/86835043754?pwd=UnRaWFJkc3Myd0dOZHBTWit1MEZBQT09

Meeting ID: 868 3504 3754
Passcode: 250979
One tap mobile +16465588656,,86835043754#,,,,*250979# US (New York)
+16469313860,,86835043754#,,,,*250979# US
Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
When?
Thursday, Mar 19, 2026, 07:00 PM

Event Information
NO SCHOOL- Eid al-Fitr
When?
Friday, Mar 20, 2026, 08:00 AM

Event Information
Donuts and Coffee with the Principal
When?
Thursday, Mar 26, 2026, 08:15 AM

Event Information
Tribal Assembly for the end of the 3rd Quarter
When?
Friday, Mar 27, 2026, 04:30 PM

Event Information
Spring Break Week
When?
Monday, Mar 30, 2026, 08:00 AM

Event Information
Students Return Back to School
When?
Tuesday, Apr 7, 2026, 09:00 AM

A PWCS "School of Excellence"

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Phone: 703.494.2195
Facebook: www.facebook.com/OccoquanElementary
Twitter: @occoquanes

Michael Lint
Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters