

# The Parent "O"bserver

8/28/25 -- Edition 9, Volume 2

## *New Items Added to the Newsletter that are Important*

### **Back to School Packet**

The **Back to School Packet** refers to the process at the beginning of each school year, where parents can review emergency and contact information for their student(s) and complete any annual policy reviews and acknowledgments. This process will be completed online through [ParentVUE](#).

If you need detailed directions, please go to the following link:

<https://www.pwcs.edu/parents/backtoschool/instructions/index>

### **New Cell Phone Policy**

The information below is what the school board has passed and will be reinforced at all elementary schools starting this school year:

#### Elementary and Combination (K-8 and Traditional) School Grade Students

- All cell phones and personal electronic communication devices must be turned off and stored away and may not be used at any time within the school building or on school grounds or during any instructional periods, regardless of location, including field trips.
- Dual-purpose watches may be worn at school, but wireless/cellular features must be turned off during the school day (e.g., must be placed in airplane mode).
- Students are permitted to use their cell phones and personal electronic communication devices(s) while on school buses, while in parent/guardian vehicles, and before they enter or

after they exit school grounds.

- Cell phones and wireless communication devices may be used on school buses provided the device does not distract the driver, compromise safety, or violate the Prohibited Content and Use for All Students provisions detailed below.

For more information on this topic, please visit the following link:

[https://www.pwcs.edu/parents/wireless\\_device\\_use/index](https://www.pwcs.edu/parents/wireless_device_use/index)

## 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](#).

## Kiss and Ride Application

As we begin this school year, I want to share an important update regarding transportation and campus logistics. Due to ongoing construction and limited space, our school will face significant challenges—especially with the volume of car riders.

To help alleviate congestion and ensure a safe and efficient arrival and dismissal process, we strongly encourage families to utilize school bus transportation whenever possible. Riding the bus will greatly reduce traffic and help keep our routines running smoothly.

However, if you choose to drop off or pick up your child by car, please be aware of the following:

- You must complete the Car Rider Application to receive a car rider number.
- This number must be displayed during pickup. Without it, you will be required to park and go to the office to sign your child out.
- The car rider line will only serve families with an official car rider number.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we navigate these challenges together. Your support is essential in keeping our students safe and our school day running efficiently.

Please find the Car Rider Application attached below. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the front office.



**Occoquan Kiss and Ride Information and Application 2025-26.**  
pdf

**Download**  
559.9 KB

## Free Breakfast and Lunch

Great news! Occoquan ES will be participating in the Federal Community Eligibility Provision for the 2025-26 school year. All students attending [school name] are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge** to your household each school day. The student(s) in your household who attend a participating CEP school are eligible to receive a complete breakfast and lunch meal without you paying a fee or submitting a meal application. If you have any questions regarding this program, please reach out to the Food and Nutrition Department at 703-791-7314.

Let's see which tribe is reading the newsletter the most.

Seigo-Sei

Lealtad

Altruista

Mpango

 Voting ends in 4 days

 Votes are anonymous but results are public

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## *Items that Will Always be Relevant for Parents to Review*

### **School Quality 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](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.



**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.

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*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 or 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.

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## *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

**NO SCHOOL**

When?

**Friday, Aug 29, 2025, 08:00 AM**

Event Information

**NO SCHOOL**

When?

**Monday, Sep 1, 2025, 04:30 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, Sep 18, 2025, 07:00 PM**

Event Information

### **Donuts and Coffee with the Principal**

When?

**Thursday, Sep 25, 2025, 08:00 AM**

Event Information

### **Back to School Night K-2 from 5:30 to 6:15, Title I from 6:15 to 6:45, & 3-5 from 6:45-7:30**

--PARK IN THE KISS AND RIDE and a bus will transport you over. There is NO PARKING AT THE SCHOOL

When?

**Thursday, Sep 25, 2025, 06:15 PM**

Event Information

### **Boosterthon Fun Run**

When?

**Friday, Sep 26, 2025, 01:45 PM**



### **Occoquan Elementary School**

Where Everybody Is Somebody

A PWCS "School of Excellence"

**Email:** [lintmp@pwcs.edu](mailto:lintmp@pwcs.edu)

**Website:** [occoquanes.pwcs.edu](http://occoquanes.pwcs.edu)

**Location:** [12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA, USA](https://www.google.com/maps/place/12915+Occoquan+Road,+Woodbridge,+VA,+USA)

**Phone:** [703.494.2195](tel:703.494.2195)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/OccoquanElementary](https://www.facebook.com/OccoquanElementary)

**Twitter:** [@occoquanes](https://twitter.com/occoquanes)



**Michael Lint**

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

