The Parent "O"bserver

10/30/26 -- Edition 10, Volume 6

New Items Added to the Newsletter that are Important

Resources for SOL Released Test Items

Released items are tools for instructional understanding, not test-preparation materials. Their value is in helping educators examine the thinking, rigor, cognitive complexity, and misconceptions reflected in assessment items, not in having students memorize or repeatedly practice released questions.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has released Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment items and supporting resources to help educators better understand the knowledge, skills, and thinking students are expected to demonstrate. This page provides division and school leaders, instructional staff, and teachers with a common understanding of released items, appropriate guidance for their use, and direct access to available resources.

State Resources:
VDOE Released Tests and Item Sets (All Subjects)
Access released SOL tests, item sets, supporting information, and subject-specific materials.

VDOE SOL Practice Items (All Subjects)
Access practice items that demonstrate online item types and allow practice with TestNav tools and features.

VDOE Performance Level Descriptors
Review the knowledge and skills associated with SOL performance levels.

Virginia School Quality Profiles
View public school-quality, achievement, accreditation, and related reporting information.

Impact Aid Forms

If you have not completed the Impact Aid survey, please do so by **December 15, 2026.** The following are a few key facts from the Impact Aid website to provide you further information about

Impact Aid:

- School districts with military installations or other federal lands within their boundaries lose local revenue because of nontaxable federal activities. Impact Aid funding partially reimburses school districts for this loss of locally derived revenue.
- Examples of eligible federal properties include national parks, military installations, and federal office buildings but there are many more.
- Federally connected and military connected are not the same. Parents can be federally connected but are not military connected. This is why it is important for *ALL* parents to complete the Impact Aid survey.
- Parent information captured on the Impact Aid survey is used solely to submit the Impact Aid application.
- Since enrollment changes and students move from year to year, the U.S. Department of Education requires school districts to count students annually. With that said, parents should complete a new Impact Aid survey every school year.

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.

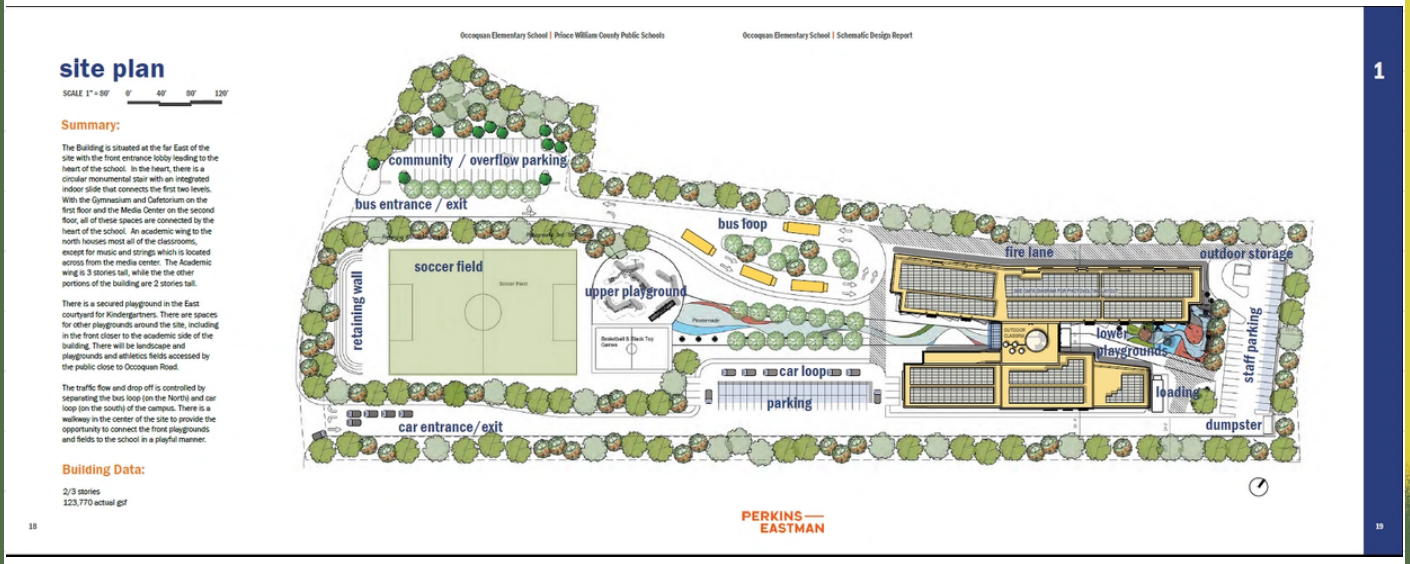
Visit the PWCS Hazel Health webpage for more information.

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 **Occoquan Elementary - Entire Plan (w_ Notes & Addendums) (1).pdf** Download 1.0 MB



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
No School for Students
When?
Monday, Nov 2, 2026, 09:00 AM

Event Information
No School for Students
When?
Tuesday, Nov 3, 2026, 09:00 AM

Event Information
First Grade Field Trip
When?
Friday, Nov 6, 2026, 09:30 AM

Event Information
Tribal Assembly Day
When?
Friday, Nov 6, 2026, 03:15 PM

Event Information
NO SCHOOL for Veteran's Day
When?
Wednesday, Nov 11, 2026, 08:00 AM

Event Information
PTO/Advisory

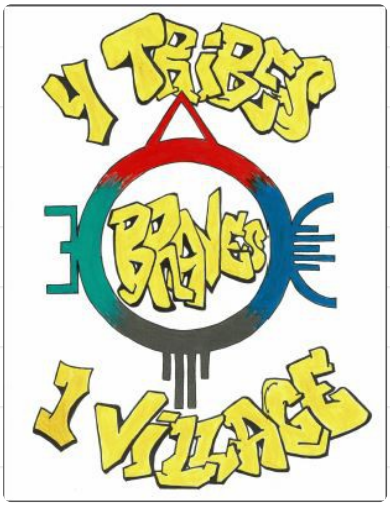
Join with Google Meet
Meeting link
meet.google.com/gfb-gpss-ivf

Join by phone
(US) +1 361-360-8283
PIN: 480920922

When?
Thursday, Nov 19, 2026, 07:00 PM

Event Information
Third Grade Field Trip
When?
Friday, Nov 20, 2026, 09:45 AM

Event Information
Thanksgiving Break 25-27
When?
Wednesday, Nov 25, 2026, 08:00 AM



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Michael Lint
Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters