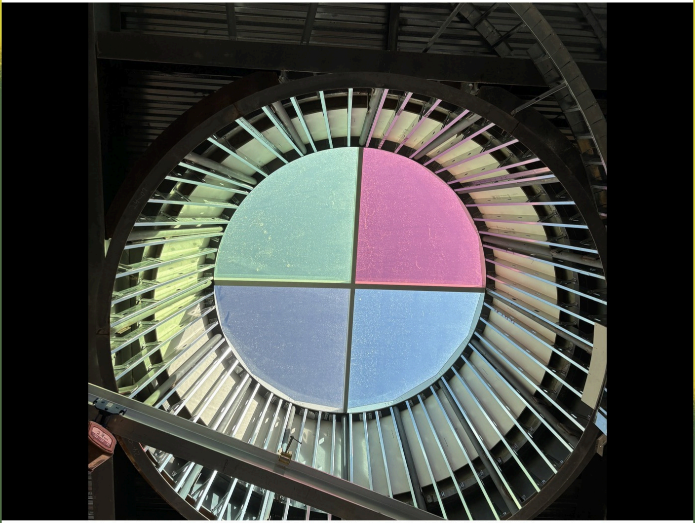
The Parent "O"bserver

11/28/25 -- Edition 9, Volume 7

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. However, with the current delays, we have now had this date pushed back to Spring Break. So, we may be pivoting everything over Spring Break. I hope to have this information updated for me again soon. Once I know what is going on, I will be sure to update you as well

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

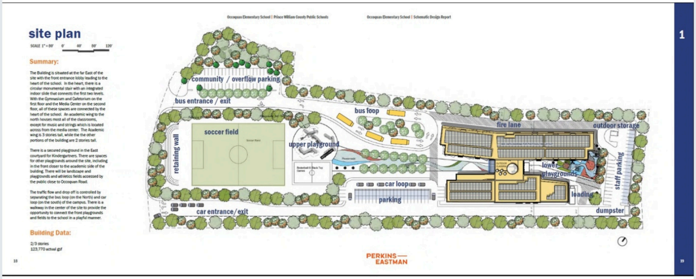
Our ambitious Continuous Improvement Plan ensures we are on the right track to navigate the journey back to pre-pandemic levels by investing in our instructional core, maintaining high expectations to ensure academic excellence, and strengthening infrastructures along the way toward greater equitable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



Occoquan Elementary School | Prince William County Public Schools

Occoquan Elementary School | Schematic Design Report

site plan

SCALE 1" = 80'

Summary:

The Building is situated at the far East of the site with the front entrance lobby leading to the heart of the school. In the heart, there is a circular monumental stair with an integrated indoor slide that connects the first two levels. With the Gymnasium and Cafetorium on the first floor and the Media Center on the second floor, all of these spaces are connected by the heart of the school. An academic wing to the north houses most all of the classrooms, except for music and strings which is located across from the media center. The Academic wing is 3 stories tall, while the the other portions of the building are 2 stories tall.

There is a secured playground in the East courtyard for Kindergartners. There are spaces for other playgrounds around the site, including in the front closer to the academic side of the building. There will be landscape and playgrounds and athletics fields accessed by the public close to Occoquan Road.

The traffic flow and drop off is controlled by separating the bus loop (on the North) and car loop (on the south) of the campus. There is a walkway in the center of the site to provide the opportunity to connect the front playgrounds and fields to the school in a playful manner.

Building Data:

2/3 stories
123,770 actual gsf

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.

OCCOQUAN ELEMENTARY

BRAVES

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

PTO/Advisory--Cancelled

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, Dec 18, 2025, 07:00 PM

Event Information

NO SCHOOL--Winter Break

When?

Saturday, Dec 20, 2025, 08:00 AM

Event Information

Donuts and Coffee with the Principal--CANCELED

When?

Friday, Dec 26, 2025, 08:15 AM

Event Information

Return to School After Winter Break

When?

Monday, Jan 5, 2026, 09:00 AM

Occoquan Elementary School

Where Everybody Is Somebody

A PWCS "School of Excellence"

Email: lintmp@pwcs.edu

Website: occoquanes.pwcs.edu

Location: 12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA, USA

Phone: 703.494.2195

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OccoquanElementary

Twitter: @occoquanes

Michael Lint

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters