

# The Parent "O"bserver

11/15/24 -- Edition 8, Volume 7

*New Items Added to the Newsletter that are  
Important*

*December Themes for All to Participate*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01	02 Yee Haw to December Wear Western Gear	03 Hats Off to Winter! Wear Your Favorite Hat	04 Tinsel Toes! Wear Festive Socks	05 Candy Cane Day - Wear Red and White	06 Channel Your Flannel - Wear Flannel	07
08	09 Merry Monday - Wear Red	10 Winter Wonderland - Wear White	11 Grinchmas - Wear Green	12 Snowball Fight! Wear Blue	13 Celebrate TWIN-ter Find a Buddy and Dress Alike!	14
15	16 Mad About Plaid - Wear Plaid	17 UGLY SWEATER DAY	18 Holiday Chaos - Wear ALL of Your Holiday Gear!	19 Elf Yourself - Dress Like an Elf	20 Long Winter's Nap Wear Your Festive PJs	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Arrival for Car Rider Line

We have had a lot of problems with parents continuing to drop their children off well after the late bell (9:20). So, in order to combat this, starting in the second quarter, we will be adjusting our time to pulling the students out of their cars up until 9:18. After 9:18, all cars will be directed to the office immediately.

The reason for this is because your children are coming in late and delaying the educational process. First off, they themselves are walking into their classrooms late, and secondly, the teachers are being held up outside continuing to pull students in to the building when they should also be getting to their classrooms to start their days.

So, please plan accordingly. And if you drop your child off outside moving forward and a staff member here did not pull them out of their car, your Car Rider Line privilege will be automatically revoked. Because there have been situations where parents have tried to drop students off without any adult present in the back. If an adult does not let your child out, you are expected to go to the office to sign them in.

Thank you for your understanding.

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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.

## *Parent Handbook for the 2024-25 SY*



**OES Parent Handbook 24-25.pdf**

[Download](#)  
251.2 KB

### **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:

## Here Comes the Bus App

Please be sure to download "Here Comes the Bus" app so that you can track your child's bus to know a more accurate time on when your child will be picked up and dropped up from their bus stops. After you download the app, it will prompt you with a few questions, and then you will need to enter a school system code. This code is: 76348

Should you have any issues with this app, please feel free to email [hctb@pwcs.edu](mailto:hctb@pwcs.edu), and they will answer your questions.

## 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 2024-25.pdf

Download  
1013.6 KB

## 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" = 50'

**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 Auditorium 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 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 athletic 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

community / overflow parking  
bus entrance / exit  
soccer field  
upper playground  
bus loop  
fire lane  
outdoor storage  
lower playgrounds  
staff parking  
car loop  
parking  
car entrance / exit  
loading  
dumpster

PERKINS — EASTMAN

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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*

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## *Important Event Dates*

Event Information

**Parent Night with Ms. Martinez and Ms. Farrell**

When?

**Wednesday, Nov 20, 2024, 06:00 PM**

Event Information

**Advisory/PTO**

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, Nov 21, 2024, 07:00 PM**

Where?

## Zoom

Event Information

### **NO SCHOOL--THANKSGIVING BREAK**

When?

**Wednesday, Nov 27, 2024, 08:00 AM**

Event Information

### **NO SCHOOL--THANKSGIVING BREAK**

When?

**Thursday, Nov 28, 2024, 08:00 AM**

Event Information

### **NO SCHOOL--THANKSGIVING BREAK**

When?

**Friday, Nov 29, 2024, 08:00 AM**

Event Information

### **5th Grade Strings Concert**

When?

**Tuesday, Dec 10, 2024, 06:30 PM**

Event Information

### **Music Club Concert**

When?

**Thursday, Dec 19, 2024, 06:30 PM**

Event Information

### **Winter Break from December 21 through January 5**

When?

**Saturday, Dec 21, 2024, 07:00 AM**

Event Information

### **First Day Back in the New Year**

When?

**Monday, Jan 6, 2025, 09:00 AM**

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?

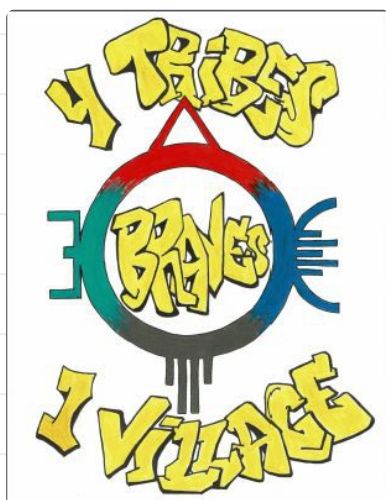
**Friday, Jan 17, 2025, 07:00 PM**

Event Information

**End of the 2nd Marking Period**

When?

**Friday, Jan 17, 2025, 04:30 PM**



## Occoquan Elementary School

Where Everybody Is Somebody  
A PWCS "School of Excellence"

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**Location:** [12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA, USA](#)

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

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

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



**Michael Lint**

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



