

Widener

WIDENER MEMORIAL SCHOOL FALL 2018

Opening Letter...

Welcome back widener family! The warm weather is gone and the cool weather has started to change the leaves to beautiful colors!

We've had quite a few changes with the staffing here since last year-- too many to list. Many have retired, and some have left for other positions. But, of course, they have been replaced by professionals who are sure to fall in love with Widener. ❤️ Please make an effort to introduce yourselves to the new staff.

There are a lot of events coming up; we are very excited for the upcoming holidays: Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Kwanza, Christmas, New Year's Eve and the New Year 2019. The winter season also means that the Widener Heroes party is on its way as well. Add to that the Winter Concert and then the Senior's trip to Central High School...we're going to be very busy!!

The early start to this school year may take a bit to get used to, but we're on our way; let's make an effort to make the 2018 -2019 the best school year ever!

Zarafina Capie, James Maddalo, & Roc

We finally have a new winner ...congratulations to Mijail Alameda for designing the top of this cover page. Mijail had some excellent competition as eight other designs received votes. Mijail, however, was the clear winner, receiving four times more votes than the next closest entrant.



WAY TO GO MIJAIL!!



Happy



Thanksgiving

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Important Dates

	November		14-	Board Meeting
6-	Election Day Schools Closed/ Full Prof. Dev Staff Only	22, 23-		Thanksgiving Holiday
7, 8, 9-	Parent/Teacher Conf.- Early dismissal for Students		December	
12-	Veterans Day- No School	13-		Winter Concert
13-	Harvest Fest	18-		Seniors Trip to Central High
		24 -		Jan 1- Winter Recess





What do **YOU** think??...part 2

There is a severe opioid addiction crisis in the United States. One response to this is the controversial idea of creating Safe Injection Sites (or SIS). An SIS is a place where addicts can inject their illegal drugs in a hygienic space under medical supervision. There will be clean needles available, and the staff will rescue anyone who overdoses. They will also offer resources for intervention/ treatment.

Philadelphia's Health Commissioner in City Hall has just this year announced that the city will allow SIS's to operate here, though the funding will be private.

QUESTION: In one sentence, please tell me whether or not you support SIS's in Philadelphia, and why.

The replies.....

"Yes... it is a definite benefit for those who need help." *Anonymous*

"Yes...rather there than on the streets where they could die—it's a sickness and they need help." *Ms. Squires*

"No because I feel it's enabling people to continue with their drug habit rather than seeking serious help." *Ms. Leonard*

"Yes because it's safer than on the street." *Michael Kubach, former student*

"No- it would encourage more usage of drugs; money should go to treatment centers." *Ms. Davis*

"Yes, depending on location; should be in hospital type setting, not in neighborhoods." *Ms. CM*

"Yes, if different setting than residential; a clinical setting." *Ms. Cuarezma*

"No- it sends the wrong message, and I don't want tax money used." *Ms Markowski*

"Yes if located away from schools, like in an industrial area." *Ms. Sarah Logiudice*

"No—truly against it altogether." *Ms. Karen*

"No, because it's still the use of illegal drugs." *Matt*

"No; it encourages its use." *Ms. L*

"No, also because it encourages its use." *Ms. Faith*

"Yes if treatment is mandatory, no if not." *Ms. Andrea*

"No because I don't recommend people doing drugs." *Anonymous*

"Yes but only if treatment is mandatory." *Anonymous*

**Research for this project was conducted by Q. Hall, Z. Lomax T. Chen, L. Escobar, & K. Wartman. The question was formulated by Escobar & Wartman; the poll taker who hit the halls was Lomax.....GREAT JOB!!*



LOWER SCHOOL



We have spent the month of October reading "Piecing Me Together" by Renee Watson! Through a grant from The Field Family and The Teen Author Series of the Free Library of Philadelphia, we were fortunate enough to visit the West Oak Lane Branch and participate in an author discussion with Mrs. Watson. We got the opportunity to hear about her life and ask her questions and the book she wrote. It was a great day! The best part was she personalized and autographed our books. We hope we can participate again in the future.



.....M. Dacons

HIGH SCHOOL

Some of the seniors went to the Wynnefield Branch of the Free Library to meet Nic Stone, author of the book "Dear Martin". Students each received a copy of the book, courtesy of the library, and got them signed on October 23.

High School English I, II, and III are participating in the "Global Read Aloud". We are reading "Refugee" and "A Boy Called Bat", and then connecting with schools around the world for post-card book discussions.

High School English I, II, III, and IV are participating in a pen-pal exchange with students from a small home in Kenya. This event is sponsored by the People Helping People Foundation.



On Friday, September 21, Mr. Ken Perry visited our high school students. He is a former graduate of Widener Memorial School and an inspirational speaker. The students were mesmerized by him and enjoyed his visit.

.....P. Emore

Community Based Vocational Program (CBVP)

First I would like to thank the staff at Widener for helping me get the program started. This effort took a lot of support from the many professionals that make this school tick. I want to thank Ms. Leonard for lending her expertise in transition as well.

The program is designed to provide for students a community based work experience to be used as a transitional framework for future employment. The goal is to improve work related skills and to evaluate strengths that could be highlighted while developing a resume.

We have a CBVP bus departing every day for a diverse selection of work sites. The following sites include:

Germantown Friends School Lankenau High School Fresh Market
Water Tower Rec. Center Germantown Adult Day
Schuylkill Nature Center Philadelphia Tennis Club Care Jewish Community Center

.....continued on pg 4



CBVT Continued.....

In addition, students will travel- train on SEPTA using trans passes that will be provided.

We are off to a great start!

We are improving our vocational skills!

We are serving the community!

CBVT Teacher Rich Aldrete

raldrete@philasd.org

Here are some pics of our workers.....



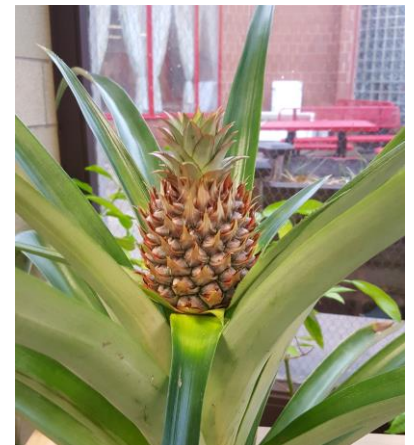
Career & Technical Education



Leandro using drill press to create access holes for scroll saw



The CTE groups have been working on picnic benches, some small woodworking, horticulture, and this newsletter.



"Spike" was born about six weeks ago on Sept. 23, 2018—finally, success after 2+ years of nurturing!



Keith cutting out Eagles pattern



The access holes (top pic) allow for cutting inside spaces and letters when creating certain patterns like the bottom image.



Our collection of pineapples is doing well; some of the smaller ones are actually "offspring" of the larger





Goats for the Greater Good-- Providing the Greater Philadelphia Area with Exciting Experience and Ecological Opportunities

The Philly Goat Project is a unique community-based program offering animal assisted therapy, goat yoga and community wellness. The intention of the program is to provide these unique services while practicing responsible environmentalism,



respectful and humane treatment of all creatures, while creating a platform that brings really fun agricultural experiences to the urban landscape. Widener Memorial Students are participating in this program twice a month and look forward to their visit with the goats.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES



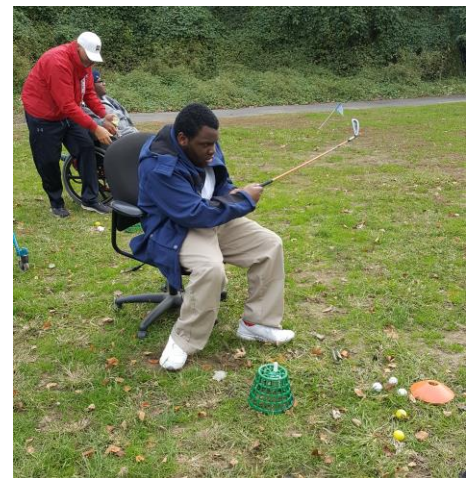
Widener students enjoyed a day at the links at FDR Park in South Philadelphia. Mr. Rudoi and Mr. Stocks led a small but enthusiastic group of young men for a fun round of golf lessons.

The First Tee golf program sponsored the outing and they provided; equipment, lessons and instructors for our students. The students practiced driving on the outdoor range followed by putting lessons on the indoor green.

Steven, Roc, William and Jymere hit some great shots, showed impressive improvement throughout the lessons and we all had a good time. Plans are being made for a return trip in the spring and hopefully more students are available to attend.

“ I had a wonderful time and I would like to thank everyone that helped make this trip possible. I would definitely go golfing again!” exclaimed Steven on the ride back to Widener.

Special shout out to Ms. Washington for providing a delicious lunch for us to take along. The young men worked up an appetite on the golf course and really enjoyed it.



S. Stocks





Welcome to Widener's Storybook Pumpkin Patch! Classes were invited to create a pumpkin to represent one of their favorite storybooks. Everyone did an amazing job, and it really added a beautiful touch to our Lobby. We had everything



from a "little Harry Potter, to doubles of Stellaluna, Pete the Cat and Pinkalicious. The students really enjoyed seeing all the creative pumpkins!

P. Deluca

HALLOWEEN



PICS...



Fall Birthdays

September

Bien-Aime, Jeff
 Finney, Malik
 McClean, Jaylia
 Owens, Jordon
 Phan, Hong
 Wartman, Kaleaf
 Williams, Ci'ani



October

Alameda, Mijail
 Almore, Kyarra
 Doxzon, Miranda
 Fontaine, Marris
 Hall, Royal
 Herbert, Tatiana
 Montgomery, Tristan
 Prout, Robert
 Roundtree, William
 Thomas, Shamiyah
 Williams-Clarke,
 Justin

WIDENER HEROES

November

Baez, Angely
 Cruz, Taisha
 Dolan, Dominic
 Griffith, Chloe
 Hall, Quayonna
 Hatzidais, Peter
 Montero, Keishland
 Pan, Jason
 Powell, Ahnyiah
 Rodriguez, Alicia
 Sines, Omar



What college did you go to and what were you studying?

I went to the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, Iowa and studied environmental science. I also went to the School for International Training in Vermont for a masters in International Community Development and Master's in Education from Arcadia University here in Philly.

How did you find out about Widener and why did you decide to work here at Widener?

I've always known about Widener since I've been a teacher in the School District. But when I heard there was an opening, I jumped at the chance to apply and was fortunate enough to have been hired and now I get to teach more amazing kids!

Have you ever had any experience working with children with special needs?

I've always taught students with many different special needs.

What interests do you pursue outside of the classroom?

Well, since I'm a mom to two little girls as well as a teacher, I pursue coffee and sleep! But joking aside, I enjoy cooking and teaching my girls to cook as well as travelling whenever and wherever we can so that we can explore and learn about other cultures.

When did you decide to become a teacher and why did you choose this field?

I haven't always been a teacher, but when I lived and worked overseas I was teaching informally, you know, like under a tree to youth in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. When I decided to move back to USA, I went back to school for formal training to be a "real" teacher because I enjoy working youth, I love science, but also wanted to be a part of helping students gain access to more opportunities for independence and help them to be positive citizens in our communities.

Mr. Hilton by Dante Gilliam-Burton

What job did you have before Widener?

This is my first job as a teacher. I was a life guard for wildwood beach patrol.

What subject do you teach?

I teach MDS, the subjects I teach are English and math.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I really like hanging out with my family.

Where did you go to college?

I went to Bloomsburg University for special ED and early childhood education.

What do you do in the summer?

My family and I own a trailer in New Jersey, and I work at the Wildwood Beach Patrol.

Where did you go to high school?

I went to upper Merion area High school.

Is there any other subject's you would like to teach?

I would like teach 2nd or 3rd grade.

How do you feel about working with students that have a disability?

I am amazed and so happy to work with children with special needs, it is my dream and I get to live it.

The Widener Memorial School

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The Widener Memorial School is a Special Education Center School for students in age-appropriate grades from kindergarten through twelve plus. Individualized programs provide superior instruction for pupils with various physical and mental disabilities. This year we celebrate our 116th year!!



Principal Highlights from Mr. Gaffin

Dear Widener Family,



Welcome Back and Happy Fall!!!

We are off to an amazing school year with a strong academic focus that supports our programming at Widener.

Since school started on August 27, we have celebrated many wonderful happenings. Several examples include a “Hollywood Style Red Carpet Welcome Back to School” event. Our high school and 12+ students actively participating in The Academic Career Exploration Program, our annual Penn Charter Day of Service and the Widener Halloween Pumpkin and Storybook Land Celebration.

As we prepare for the upcoming months which include Thanksgiving and the festive holiday season, I want to remind everyone to continue to spend quality time reading and completing all school assignments. Reading is the key to academic success!

Thank you for continued support to provide the best for our students in our great school and home partnerships. We are a true partnership school.

Fondly,

Harris R. Gaffin

Principal

