

# WIDENER



**Room 23 wins the cover competition for the Fall 2019 Edition of the Widener News!!**

Congratulations to Mohammed, Basheer, Mahd, Maria, Rihanna, Emilie, and Dawens for their excellent choice of color, text, and image combination!

WAY TO GO GANG!!



## Opening Letter...

Hello Widener family, welcome to the school year 2019-2020! Our class is entering into the final year at Widener, and from the start we would like to make it the most memorable and exciting year ever. We have one more chance at making unforgettable moments because after we leave, they will only become memories. Even though our time here is coming to an end, another adventure is about to begin.

Like most years, some staff and students have moved on, replaced by new employees and pupils. Let's be sure that we support and extend to them the warmest Widener welcome!

This is fall season, a time when the temperature starts dropping and the leaves start changing, turning into beautiful colors. It's also when football returns, and Halloween and Thanksgiving are celebrated. Before you know it, Winter will be here and we'll all be shopping for the holidays!

The 12+ crowd hopes you had a good start and will have a great school year!

### Important Dates

#### NOVEMBER

20-22 Report Card Conferences- Early Dismissal

28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday

#### DECEMBER

23 Full Day Professional Development

24-31 Winter Recess

#### JANUARY

1 New Year's Day

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Inside School News.....2-4
- Sports & Activities.....4
- Community.....4-5
- Front Office .....5
- Halloween Holiday.....6-7
- Principals Message.....8



Widener's Workshop has been buzzing!

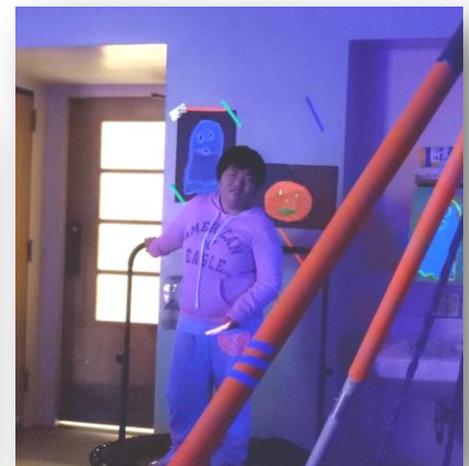
Room 103 works diligently in the "Workshop" practicing pre-vocational skills. We match, sort, fold, assemble, and disassemble! You can see the concentration and determination on their faces. :-)  
Awesome job everyone!  
P. Emore



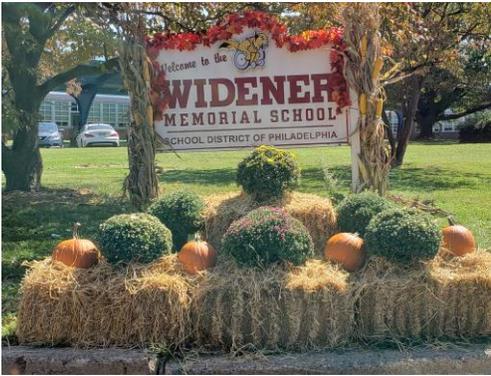
Mrs Vagnozzi's class has been busy in the workshop! Students in 106 are busy workers, learning new skills, completing work tasks and becoming cooperative workers!! The students each made a pillow with their initial on it. Ironing skill and operating a sewing machine are just two of the many skills being taught in the workshop! Stay tuned for more projects coming from room 106 students!!



This is Room 101 enjoying the apparatus and glow features of the Sensory Room. This was our first time but not the last. Angela, Olivia, John and Izzy had a great time.



## Career & Technical Education



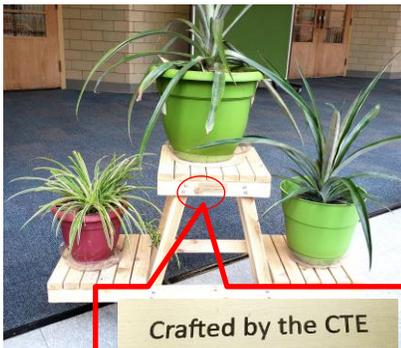
Fall Decorations by Kaleaf and Leandro



This is Widener's third pineapple nearing maturity. It's especially robust, as there are two other pineapples growing from the same stalk! (Circled)



Leandro using miter saw



Crafted by the CTE Students at Widener



Kaleaf using nail gun



Some very hot peppers!

This fall Spanish class studied plantain bananas

Matthew Manning researched the difference between the plantain and the banana. Matteo reports that the plantain is considered a cooking banana while the common yellow banana is considered a dessert banana and that there are 1000 varieties of bananas in the world. Dominic Dolan remembers having seen a red banana in the past. Dom found out that there is a variety that has red skin called the Cuban Red Banana.



### Plantains

like and love ... ate

### Room 23 Platanos Acrostic Poem

tasty tostones, maduros, or mofongo

awesome!

nutritious

Oven-baked, fried, or boiled

Stuffed plantain canoas

### Steven Segers Fried Ripe Plantain Recipe

When plantains are the ripest they are black in color. To fry them you peel them, slice them on a diagonal, and fry them in hot oil for 1 and a half minutes, flip them, and cook for one more minute. This is a fast and easy recipe that goes with any other food.

#### Jymere Rayfield:

Plantains are a major food staple in West and Central Africa, and the Caribbean Islands.



• 119 • NATATORIUM •

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Where have you seen this sign? If you remember, then you probably know what it relates to....but do you know the actual meaning? It's not a one-word answer! 😊



Here's Justin, then slam-dunk action shots featuring Roody....

.....Mr. Cancelliere & Mr. Stocks

**Ballroom Dancing**.....has returned for their 13<sup>th</sup> year!! Amazing! Please let them know they're appreciated.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Ms Loree and Ms Diana from **Grumble Thorp** Demonstrated and taught Mrs. Vagnozzi's students how to make a pumpkin pie from a real pumpkin! It was a lot of fun and the students really enjoyed learning how to cook! We can't wait for them to come back a second time so that we can continue the recipe and cook the pie! We love pumpkin pie in room 106!



**Kardon Center for Arts Therapy**

In Art Therapy, students



learned about symbols used by the Native Americans to create ancient pictograph drawings (above).

Team Building and Making Connections! Middle school students created puzzle pieces to represent themselves in art therapy and then worked as a team to assemble the puzzle (left).

After exploring the various textures and colors of objects found in nature, art therapy students created individual nature sculptures.



M. DaVita



## Transition

The transition class is composed of returning 12<sup>th</sup> graders that have finished their core curriculum. The students' focus this year is on vocational and transitional skills and practical experiences in the field. The class has had field trips to Walmart, Target, Ikea where they toured the stores and interviewed staff about their jobs. They also went to a Boys and Girls Club where they were given mock job interviews for actual positions at the Club.



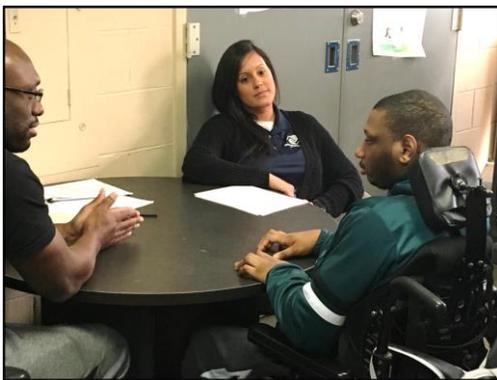
**Jermaine Winchester at Boys and Girls Club having a mock job interview**



**The Transition class at Ikea**



**Learning the layout of the Ikea store on Columbus Blvd**



**Angelo McClain at Boys and Girls Club having a mock job interview**



**Transition class interviewing the head of Human Resources at the Target store on Roosevelt Blvd**



*Mr. Price*

## FRONT OFFICE



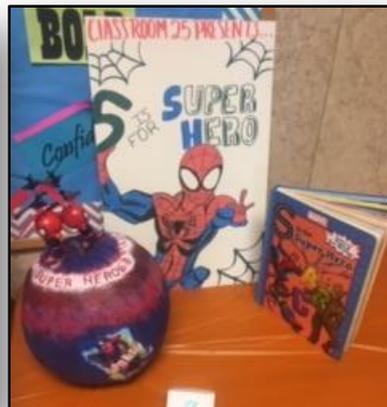
How about some praise for those up front that keep Widener running all day every day!!

Thank you Ms. Squires and Ms. Davis for the hard work you perform day after day!!

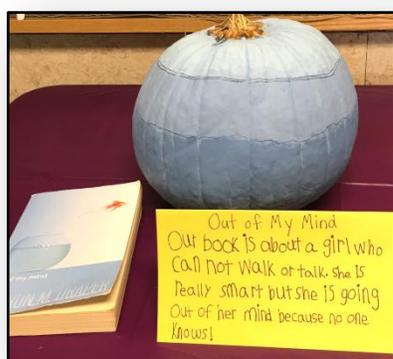


# Halloween 2019

## Pumpkin Decorating Contest



The classrooms that participated were, from left to right,  
 Top row: 28, 103, 25 (Winner!)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> row: 106, 23, 22, 112



3<sup>rd</sup> row: 20, 14, 105  
 Bottom row: 21, 26, 108, & 24  
 Great Job!!





**Guess Who???**



# Halloween Season Montage

**Room 28**



**Room 112**



**Room 26**



**Room 101**



**Room 112/Art Therapy**



**Room 112**

The Widener Memorial School  
1450 West Olney Avenue Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19141  
215-456-3015  
[www.philasd.org/widener](http://www.philasd.org/widener)

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 117<sup>th</sup> year!!



## Principal's Message

Dear Widener Memorial Families,

Please enjoy the Fall 2019 Edition of the Widener Memorial Newsletter!

We have certainly had a fantastic first three months of school...it's been incredibly busy, but the progress the students have made has been astounding! By now, everyone has settled into their new classrooms, their new routines and getting down to the business of learning.



So far this school year, we celebrated our annual "Red Carpet Welcome Back to School Event" hosted by The Goldenberg Group, a very successful Back to School Night supported by the Office of Family and Community Engagement, our annual Story Book Pumpkin Contest and very soon as we near the Thanksgiving holiday, disguised turkeys will be hung up around the school.

Events like this are very important to our school community and I am looking forward to our upcoming seasonal holiday events in December which include our annual Widener Heroes hosted by the Philadelphia Police Dept-35<sup>th</sup> district and our Holiday show on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Widener Home and School Association, please feel free to contact the guidance counselor, Mrs. McClain.

Thank you for your continued support!

Have a wonderful holiday!

Best,

Harris R. Gaffin

