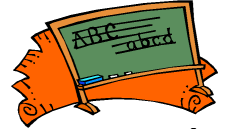
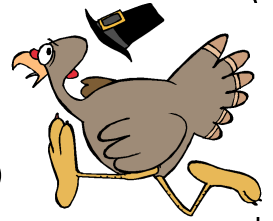




Widener News November 2011

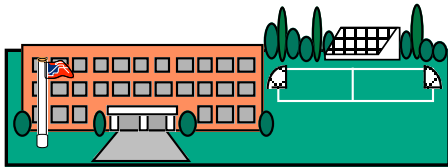


OPENING LETTER

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to show appreciation or give thanks to those you love and/or care about. It is also a time to start digging into some of your mother's, grandmother's or guardians turkey (oh yah!) Before you start enjoying that great food and ruining your diets (oh c'mon! It's Thanksgiving!) don't forget to lift your head form your plate and give thanks to ones you love. I know I will. Have a GREAT Thanksgiving and don't eat too much.

Lestanya Martin
Student Editor



HOME & SCHOOL NEWS - PARENTS' CORNER

Please remember to check your child's book bag each day for homework assignments and important school information.



Home and School Events

• From our

HOME & SCHOOL President

Dear Parents,

Parents, please be sure to pay close attention to the email that are sent and information that may be provided in your child's book bag.

Try to attend the Home and School meetings!!! If you would like to have your name removed from the list to receive email, please email me and I will remove your name. You are more than welcome to respond to the email with any questions or concerns.



UPCOMING HOME AND SCHOOL MEETINGS FUTURE MEETINGS:

November **22nd (5-7), I HOPE to see you there. Have a great Thanksgiving! December 12th (10 am) ** Please note date change. Attend 5 Home and School Meetings and be entered for a \$25 raffle - You get to choose where!



WORKSHOPS:

1/12/12 :First WIDENER MINI FAIR. SAVE THE DATE! There will be a key note speaker as well as many therapy organizations /companies for families to investigate. More Information to Follow.

TRAINING'S: Various training's may be posted - stay tuned!!!

Thank you for your attention!!!

Roz Downing
"living to love, loving to live!!!"

Home & School Officers

*Roslyn Downing - President
Sandy Emmert - Vice President
Emme Rodgers - Secretary
Larry Mensch - Treasurer*

FUND RAISERS

•The Home & School is also looking for future ideas for fundraising to help support our Widener students. Any ideas???? Please share them with the Home & School or better yet come to the next Home & School Meeting. Your support is greatly appreciated.

• The "Children's Fund" at Widener services our students during many challenging times. If you wish to celebrate a family member and give a donation to this wonderful cause and celebrate an event of any type (birth, anniversary or passing), please contact the Home & School at 215-456-3193.

• We need YOUR support for this years Home & School Membership Drive. Please support your student and ALL the Home & School activities.

• Look for future information on the upcoming Home & School's Holiday Bazaar. Volunteers are needed. Call the Home & School if interested.

LADDER WORKSHOPS



Parents & Guardians,

The programs with Widener Memorial School and Prince Hall School and LaSalle University are moving ahead with great success! Thanks to the many parents and guardians from Widener Memorial School who are supporting

and benefitting from our evening enrichment program (LEAP), Kardon Music & Art Therapy program, Family Counseling, and Monthly Family Workshops!

We are always looking for more families to get involved. Our November workshop topic is "Financial Planning for Your Family with Special Needs" on November 8th. Fliers are sent home each month with the children to highlight the details of the workshops. Our Spring Series of workshops will begin in February 2012! More information on the LADDER programs can be found on the web site address, which is "LaSalle.edu/autismladdercenter".

We welcome your involvement!
Sincerely,
Robert T. Mack, Associate Director

***IN THE COMMUNITY*
From the Counselors:**

● Parents - Philadelphia Home Improvement Loan Program are Available

Fall is a great time to make those home improvements you've been thinking of. With great low rates and expanded income guidelines, now is the perfect time to take advantage of this offer made available to Philadelphia homeowners. A PHIL

Loan features: Low fixed rates, 3% APR and 5% APR* Interest is usually tax-deductible** To be eligible, your property must be an owner-occupied



residence, located within the City of Philadelphia. For **more information about the PHIL Loan Program, please**

Email: AskPhilaLoan@rda.phila.gov

Call: 877-4U-PHILA (877-487-4452)

- submitted by Toby Grubman Counselor

● An interesting web site to share with our Widener parents is "familyhope center.com". It shares stories of other families with special needs children and there hopes.



- submitted by Geraldine Cooper

SCHOOL NEWS

OUR ANNUAL FALL FOOD

DRIVE is underway. We are once again partnering with our Home & School Association in collecting donated canned and packaged foods.

These items will be used to make up harvest baskets for families in our Widener Community. Please donate as often as you can! The drive runs through November 22nd.



Thank you for your continued partnership in support of all of our students...

● The student center at Widener School will be opening in November for classes and in December to all.



We need donations for the students to sell. Please see Ms. Tressel in Room 109. Thank you.

- submitted by Ms. Tressel

FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES:

Our annual Fall Festival was a great success. The lower school students enjoyed an afternoon of fun and games as they participated in a variety of social activities. Many thanks to the teachers for all their time and effort in preparing this event.



FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES:

Parents: Widener is having their 2nd Annual Penny Drive! With the money we collect, half of the money will go to the charity of the winners choice and the other half will help fund Widener Day.

Last year Mrs. DeLuca's Class, Room 101, won our 1st Penny Drive.



They were able to donate over \$300 in their name to the Variety Club!

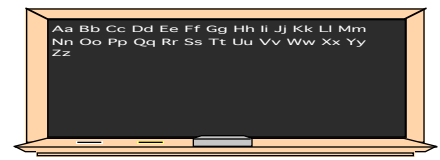
So please save those pennies

and send them in with your child!

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Malone in Room 21.

Thank you for your support!

- submitted by Mr. Dave Malone



● The Seventh and Third graders are working together with "Need in Deed" to participate in a year long service project. The topic is yet to be determined because we are in the exploring phase of the project. Below is Need in Deed's website if you wanted to take a clip from their mission.

<http://www.needindeed.org/index.php>



The 8th grade is participating in a service project with the Kindergarten class. They come to our room every Friday and 8th grade students design what they will work on with the K class during that day.

The penny drive is up an running - staff and students are donating pennies which will be used to raise money for a charity chosen by the winning class and for Widener Day activities.



AND LASTLY

The following classes had the most steps in October for 100 Book Challenge: room 24, room 37 and room 22. Congratulations to all!

submitted by Mrs. Dori Malone



WIDENER HERO'S

Breeana Harvey will perform the *Star Spangled Banner* at St. Joe's women and men basketball games on Saturday, Dec. 10 @ 12 p.m. and

Saturday, Jan. 28 @ 2 p.m. Widener family please come out and support Breeana and this great accomplishment!!!

- submitted by **L. Strothers**

● Our student interviews are BACK! Our first interview is with a first year teacher at WIDENER - Mrs. Emore!

Widener News Letter Staff interview of Mrs. Emore by Leah Godboldt

L.G. How long have you been a teacher?

Mrs. E. I have been a teacher in Philadelphia for the past 16 years.

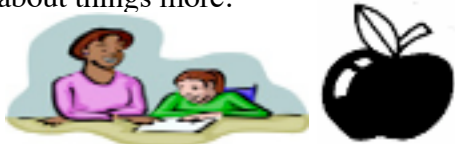
L.G. How long have you been a teacher here? For a year.

L.G. How did you find out about this school?

Mrs. E. I passed by the building one day and decided to find out more about it after I had heard some good things beforehand.

L.G. How do you like it here? If you have learned anything from being here so far what is it?

Mrs. E. I like it here because there are people from so many different backgrounds and walks of life. I have learned to keep an open mind about things more.



L.G. What do you plan to do when you retire from teaching?

Mrs. E. I plan to work in my garden, go to the beach, and become a grandmother one day.

L.G. Would you tell other teachers to come teach here?

Mrs. E. Yes, I would. I think teachers would like it here because students are well-behaved and there are smaller class sizes.

● And now a student interview!

Widener News Letter Student interview of Sareefah Emanuel by Leah Godboldt

L.G. How long have you been at this school?

S.E. Since Kindergarten.

L.G. How did you find out about us? **S.E.** My mom found out about it and enrolled me, I don't remember

how.

L.G. What do you like about this school?

S.E. This school accommodates me and it's great.

L.G. If you could change one thing here what would it be and why?

S.E. I wouldn't change anything here.

L.G. What do you plan to do or become when you leave us?

S.E. I want to go to college and become a pediatrician.

L.G. Would you recommend this school to anyone

S.E. Definitely.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

ANGELY BAEZ

DANIELLE CARTER

ROCCO DEGORI

JOHN EGAN

QUAYONNA HALL

PETER HATZIDAI

ERIN MCFARLANE

AMIN PAYNE

MARKITA RODGERS

ALICIA RODRIGUEZ

RACHEL ROMAN

ASHLEY SLOCUM

BRIANNA WALLACE



SPORTS & RECREATION:

Attention Widener Students

Katie Komet's Basketball Team Needs

Ages 8 to 19

Practices are on Saturday at:

Carousel House Belmont Avenue & North Concourse Drive West Fairmount Park

Prep Team Ages 13 and Under

Practice Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Varsity Team Ages 14-19

Practice Time: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For More Information:

Stuart Greenberg at 215-683-3638



SWIMMING PROGRAM

If any parents are interested in having their child



participate in this years swimming program at Widener, please sign the permission slip and have your your family doctor sign it as soon as possible. All swimming slips must be received by November 30th. For questions or concerns, please call Jim Scanlon at 215-456-3126.

● **If you wish to have a copy of each months newsletter sent to your computer at home or work, just e-mail**

Jim Scanlon

at: jscanlon @

philasd.org. You can then receive next months edition by e-mail.



● **Congratulations** to our High School News Letter Team. They include Lestanya Martin, Dejua Tiller, Valerie Figueroa, Leah Godboldt, Malcolm Fowlkes & Sareefah Emmanuel. Great job guys. I know you will do a SUPER job this year!

Thanksgiving!

by Sareefah Emanuel



Thanksgiving is being at a place where you spend time with friends and family - and with people you haven't seen in a while. Everyone comes to enjoy the cooking. We have lots of games to play, children smiling and getting in the way, and mom saying 'you're in my way'. Then things really get real hot, when we fire up the grill. In the evening, the family has time to chill and watch movies. If you really want to know what Thanksgiving is all about come spend time with the Neely's and see what we do!



● **Have a TERRIFIC Thanksgiving Holiday with your family!**

Dear Parents,

Happy November! I am pleased to announce that our 100 Book Challenge for the month of October has been a huge success!

Our Study Island program is up and running! Please continue to encourage your child to access the Study Island website at home to bolster their academic skills.

Good reading skills are one of the keys to academic success. We ask that you read to and with your child daily. We have begun a technology-based reading program to augment our current literacy program. The Achieve 3000 program incorporates learning activities tailored to meet the specific reading needs of your child.

We invite all of our parents to attend Report Card Conferences scheduled for Wednesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 1, and from 12:30-3:00pm. Our Wonderful Widener Teachers will be available to speak to you about your child's academic and social growth.

On behalf of the staff of The Widener Memorial School, I wish all a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Warm Regards,

Sharon Z. Glodek

