



THE WISDOM CORRIDOR PROJECT

# FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





## Overview

Foster School's Wisdom Squad is Mt. Lebanon School District's first cohort. At the beginning of 2022, a group of 18 third and fourth graders were trained by Richa Nautiyal and the Project FUEL group to become empathetic interviewers. Students practiced asking open-ended questions with each other and at home to lead the interviewee to the ultimate question, "What is your life lesson?" They each chose a staff member at our school to interview formally and get their answers to the essential question. Students wrote summaries of these life lessons and they will be displayed in our Wisdom Corridor for all to read. We also plan on publishing all of the stories in a hardback book for our school library and to donate to our local public library.





## “What we loved”

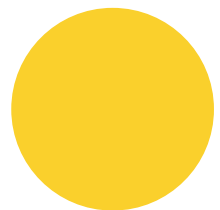
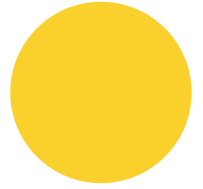
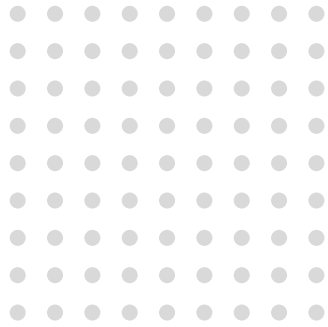
Our Wisdom Squad experience was life-changing for all of us! The Squad consists of twelve 4th and 5th grade students who began the project a whole year earlier. Students put their skills to work and wrote one short piece and one longer piece about the teacher they chose to interview. The shorter piece is displayed with the photo in our school’s Wisdom Corridor and the longer piece will be published in a book that we will put in the school and local libraries. We plan to collect more interviews from community members, staff and students. One student even suggested setting up booths at the local Community Day to interview people there. Our Wisdom Corridor experience is really just beginning!

**-Bridget Belardi, Educator**





# Wisdom Gallery





# Wisdom Squad

## Students

Emma Wright

Gloria Koeppell

Emily Strauch

Isla Sgro

Tessa Duncan

Josephine Walsh

Emma Heisel

Abigail Boisvert

Evan Baird

Andrew Grumbine

Karl Becker

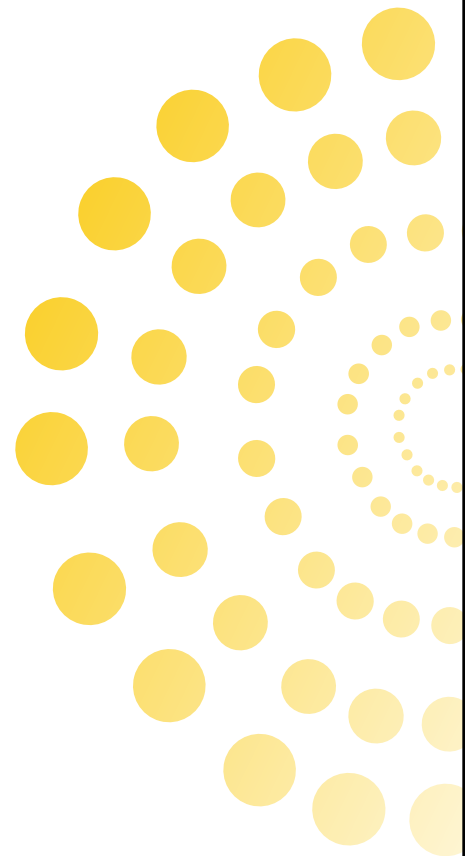
Ruth Reidy

## Educator

Bridget E. Belardi

## Principal

Dr. Jason Ramsey





## MRS. HERZOG

With:

ISLA SGRO

### Be Kind.

Mrs. Herzog's life lesson is, "to be kind." She says sharing kindness not only makes other people feel better, but it also makes you feel better. Being kind is Mrs. Herzog's life lesson because if you're having a tough day, sharing kindness with someone else will help turn your day around!





# MRS. BELARDI

With:

EMMA HEISEL

## Accept people for who they are.

By traveling throughout the world, Mrs. Belardi believes that acceptance is the most important life lesson of all--aside from not putting your water bottle in your backpack. If everyone could be accepting of others and let them be different, the world would be a better place.





## MRS. KIRK

With:

EMMA WRIGHT

### **It's a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness.**

A lesson that is important in Mrs. Kirk's life is something Chief Seneca said back when he was the chief of the Seneca Nation. He had announced, "It is a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness." Even though it took Mrs. Kirk some time to figure out her dream, she reached her height of greatness as an amazing teacher.







## MR. ELIAS

With:

**ANDREW GRUMBINE**

### **Live day by day and have patience.**

Even though he's a teacher, Mr. Elias still has a life outside of school--like being a coach, being a dad for his family and being a community member. The most interesting thing he told me is his life lesson which is, "To live day by day and to have patience." Accepting life's events and keeping a patient and positive attitude will enable us to find the good in the bad.





# MISS SANDORA

With:

**GLORIA KOEPEL**

**There are always more perspectives than your own.**

Through her reading and teaching, Miss Sandora gains and shares perspectives about our world. Miss Sandora loves learning about social justice and believes children are the future. She enjoys shaping the future of the world.





# SENORA CONTE

With:

**JOSEPHINE WALSH**

## **Work hard and be kind.**

While traveling from Brazil to the United States and around the world, Senora Conte has always kept one thing in mind-- Work hard and be kind. If you don't work hard, there won't be an internal or external reward. When you are the reason there is a smile on someone's face because you were nice to them, it brings so much joy. Sure, she's had to conquer some obstacles, but that never stops her from trying her best!





## MRS. PRIYA

With:

EMILY STRAUCH

### **Be happy with what you have.**

The life lesson she learned over the years and during Covid is that, "One has to learn to be happy with what you have." It's a hard life lesson because even when things aren't going your way, you may want to cry about it, but instead, you should learn to deal with it. Mrs. Priya also said "to have patience with the process." She made the point of saying that it is easy to say, but to do it is harder.





## MRS. SWITZER

With:

**EVAN BAIRD**

### **Use your imagination and you will go far.**

Mrs. Switzer's life lesson is, "Use your imagination and you will go far." When she was little, Mrs. Switzer always had an artistic interest and talent. She practiced drawing all the time. Once she began to express her own ideas and creativity through art, Mrs. Switzer found true inspiration and happiness. She hopes her students will use their imaginations to find happiness.





## DR. RAMSEY

With:

**ABIGAIL BOISVERT**

**Inspire others to dream  
more and learn more.**

Dr. Ramsey's life lesson is, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." This is a quote by John Quincy Adams. Dr. Ramsey says, "I hope to inspire students and teachers to dream, learn and do more because of the example that I set for all who know me as a principal and person." Dr. Ramsey is a leader and if you try hard enough then you can be one too.





## MR. MEUTE

With:

TESSA DUNCAN

### **Just be yourself.**

Mr. Meute's life lesson is, "To just be yourself." He thinks that being unique is the best way to live your life, because you don't need to be anyone else. He knows this because when you try to be something you're not, you are not happy. Mr. Meute is a fantastic teacher with an even more fantastic life lesson.





## MRS. TUCKER

With:

**RUTH REIDY**

**Be yourself and be bold enough to follow your dreams.**

Over the years, she's learned that the best way to be is YOURSELF! Her words of wisdom come from being herself--a strong woman, teacher, mother, friend, and mentor. She echoes these words of wisdom to all she meets, "Be bold enough to follow your heart and dreams!" Her absolute undying love of following her dreams leads her strictly in the direction of this amazing wisdom she's learned.







## MR. KOLLING

With:

**KARL BECKER**

### **Follow your heart.**

The best piece of advice Mr. Kolling has ever been given was, "To follow your heart." He says to not let people tell you who you are and to do what you want to do. As a kid, Mr. Kolling's parents told him the exact same thing--" Follow your heart." Mr. Kolling's advice to follow your heart and learn from your mistakes are words worth remembering. He gives his own children and students at Foster the same advice.

