

The Wakefield Educational Foundation is proud to support the Greenwood School's initiative to honor Ms. Pam Wood, a beloved speech therapist, colleague and friend of the Greenwood School. After Ms. Wood tragically passed away in January 2021, the community collaborated on a special project to keep her memory alive and to provide support and resources for those experiencing grief and loss. Ms. Jennifer Beardslee, School Psychologist at the Greenwood school, spearheaded a project entitled, *Ms. Pam's Lending Library*. Ms. Beardslee, with the support of Greenwood Principal Tiffany Back, submitted a grant request to the Wakefield Educational Foundation during the fall 2021 grant cycle. In her grant she wrote: *"I would like to set up a collection of social emotional books at the Greenwood School library that students, parents and teachers can access. We would like to have a lending library that provides support and resources to help those struggling with grief and loss."* Ms. Beardslee identified approximately 30 books to add to the lending library including, among others, "Where do People Go When They Die" by Mindy Avra Portnoy; "Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children" by Bryan Page; and "A Terrible Thing Happened" by Margaret Holmes.

During its November 2021 review of grants submitted from district personnel the WEF Grant Review Committee found the request for this lending library to be especially meaningful because of the continuing impact it would have on students for years to come. WEF not only approved this grant but suggested the idea be carried over to the other elementary schools as well. The original request became a district wide initiative to support students and families dealing with loss and became a way for all the elementary schools to pay tribute to Ms. Pam Wood.

But the project didn't stop there. Pam's parents, Edwin and Carol Wood, who were so touched by the loving tribute to their late daughter, decided to become involved too. Mr. Wood built a bookcase as a home for the books and a memorial to Pam. When he learned of the expansion of the project to all elementary schools, he graciously built 3 more. Today, each library in Wakefield's four elementary schools has a dedicated bookshelf handcrafted by Pam's Dad that will hold a special collection of books to assist children dealing with loss and grief. WEF is proud to be part of this effort to honor Pam and her work that has touched so many.



Mr. and Mrs. Wood stand next to Ms. Pam's Lending Library at Greenwood. This project was the result of the collaboration between the Greenwood School, Wakefield Educational Foundation, and the Wood Family.