

Bringing Learning to Life: The Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty

St. Francis Episcopal Day School's beloved first principal, Sarah W. "Sally" Woolrich, believed that inspired teaching fosters the love of learning. In this spirit, the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty underwrites unique professional development opportunities for St. Francis faculty members. Woolrich awards have funded an incredible range of adventures—from dinosaur digs to explorations of cave art to tours of the Holy Roman Empire.

With the support of the St. Francis community, Woolrich-funded travels, training, and artifacts have equipped our teachers to bring classroom learning to life. By transforming words on a page into tangible experiences, they ignite in St. Francis students a passion for learning—and introduce them to whole new worlds of possibility.

HISTORY

Joseph Schiller

When Mr. Schiller realized that virtually every culture and era covered in his seventh-grade history curriculum bore the mark of the ancient trade route known as the Silk Road, he decided to create a series of STEAM lessons highlighting the dynamic thoroughfare. What better way to bring these lessons to life than to walk the very paths that once linked the goods and ideas of the world? Mr. Schiller will travel to Uzbekistan for an eleven-day tour of the original Silk Road route and outposts, including visits with local Uzbeks, sight-seeing in key towns, strolls through lively bazaar markets—and even an overnight stay in a Yurt tent akin to those of the nomadic people of the region. After this immersion in the sights, sounds, and flavors of a bygone time, Mr. Schiller will bring back the stories and artifacts that embody the spirit of the Silk Road.



READING

Monica Masini, Laretta DuByne, Nancy Pettiette, Julie Grantham



Once in a while, a mentor comes along who inspires educators to reach higher. For our first-grade team of Laretta DuByne, Julie Grantham, Monica Masini, and Nancy Pettiette, that muse is Lucy Calkins, literacy expert and founding director of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University in New York City. Recent training in the Calkins method left this Lower School team ready for more of what they describe as an active, student-centered, and collaborative approach. Our teachers will now apply for the Summer Institute at Teachers College, a highly competitive five-day seminar that expands on the method and features speakers such as Calkins and other authorities in the field, as well as children's writers. The team hopes to return to St. Francis equipped with further tools to help students along the path to exceptional literacy.

ATHLETICS

Ron Robinson

As if attending the U.S. Lacrosse Convention—the nation's largest educational event for coaches and officials—won't be rewarding enough, Girls Lacrosse Coach Ron Robinson is kicking his game up a notch. While in Baltimore for the three-day event, Mr. Robinson will also spend two days on the campus of Johns Hopkins University, home to one of the premier lacrosse programs in the nation. Through observation, practice videos, and visits with top players and coaching staff, he will gain firsthand insight into the inner workings of the lacrosse powerhouse. He'll then build on this knowledge at the USL convention, learning from top minds in the game via clinics, seminars, and networking. With an eye to a future that includes a



St. Francis Upper School, Mr. Robinson plans to model our school program after the greats, building the lacrosse athlete's all-around skill, character, and self-esteem.

SPANISH

Brooke Dawson

Here's a little-known fact: Seventh-grade Spanish teacher Brooke Dawson was first introduced to Spanish as a student at St. Francis. What began in the classroom of Señora Sasso years ago has today blossomed into a devotion to the language, culture, and study of Spain. To this end, Ms. Dawson will travel to Madrid and Seville, Spain, for an eight-day immersion trip this summer. Five days in Madrid will include a week-long intensive Spanish course at the don Quijote School, and her time in both cities will comprise visits to famous landmarks and life among the people and places that define the culture. Ms. Dawson will bring back to her St. Francis peers the best-practice teaching methods learned at the don Quijote School—and to her students a vibrant account of what makes Spain so very special.



MATH

Sarah Powell

Statistical analysis. Data gathering. Problem solving. Polar bears? Thanks to the ingenuity of Canada's Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Sarah Powell will have the opportunity to experience all four during one memorable week on the banks of Hudson Bay in Manitoba. As part of an active research team, Mrs. Powell will collect scientific data during a brief window in the annual migration of the polar bears through Churchill. She'll also hang on for a helicopter tour of the coastline and a dog-sledding trip around the region. The eighth-grade math teacher, who admits to a lifelong fascination with polar bears, plans to tap her adventures back in the classroom through project-based learning that incorporates data, spread sheets, and predictions, adding, "I'll get those kids to love polar bears, too!"

