

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.

CLASSROOM DESIGN

Veni Hardy, Susan Meriwether

Although Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Meriwether's Pre-Primary classroom is already brimming with inspiration and creativity, they plan to bring back even more of both from their visits to some of the most incredible playscapes in the country. Their first stop is Taos, New Mexico, where they will explore the legendary Twirl Toy Store and Play Space and tour the Reggio-based Christina Kent Early Childhood Center. Then, they'll fly to San Francisco for a two-day visit to the



world-famous Exploratorium museum; a tour of Kumara School; and a round-table discussion on expressive language and technology in the Reggio-inspired classroom. Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Meriwether will use what they learn to enrich our current Primary School program, as well as the indoor and outdoor play spaces planned for the South Campus.

CREATIVITY

Amy Jones, Lyndsay Sweeney

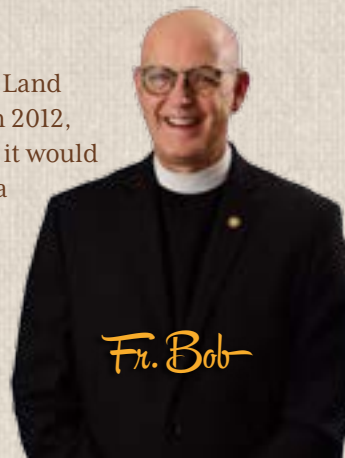
Where better but Disney to learn more about thinking outside the box? Mrs. Jones and Ms. Sweeney will visit Orlando, Florida, for a four-day course covering Disney's Approach to Creativity and Innovation. The aim? To bring home concepts and practices that will enhance our students' ability to make creative decisions; to blossom as leaders and innovators; and to enjoy the benefits of deeper collaboration in the classroom.



RELIGION

Fr. Bob Wismer

After experiencing the Holy Land on a Woolrich scholarship in 2012, Father Wismer realized that it would be the ideal destination for a St. Francis alumni trip. He will be returning to Jerusalem this summer to prepare and lay the groundwork for a recurring adventure



that will be offered to St. Francis graduates in late high school through post-college. Father Wismer's overseas trip will also include visits to Anglican schools in Jerusalem and London, where he will study the deep roots of the Anglican education enterprise and gather ideas and insights to benefit St. Francis's own faith-based mission.

YOGA

Brooke Smith

In her eight years as a St. Francis Lower School teacher, Mrs. Smith has helped her students learn to appreciate the value of exercising their minds and their bodies. The former St. Francis track and cross-country coach and Girls on the Run mentor is also an avid runner and yoga practitioner on her own time, and her recent Woolrich Award will fuel her ability to share the benefits of yoga with St. Francis students. Research shows that yoga benefits students by improving focus, attention span, and concentration; relieving tension, stress, and anxiety; and helping to strengthen collaboration and civic and social awareness. To bring these benefits to St. Francis students, Mrs. Smith will be attending a Houston-based training session through Yogiños called Yoga in Schools: Mindfulness and Movement Across the Curriculum; will become certified as a children's yoga teacher through Rainbow Kids Yoga in Boulder, Colorado; and will learn more about integrating yoga and mindfulness techniques in the classroom through the online Yoga4Classrooms course.

