

## A Powerful Legacy:

### Sarah W. Woolrich

No individual has influenced the culture of St. Francis Episcopal School more than its first principal, Sarah W. "Sally" Woolrich. She made a life of teaching, guiding, and, most of all, celebrating young children.



Mrs. Woolrich was hired in 1959 to teach St. Francis's inaugural first-grade class of 10 children. She continued to teach first grade for six years, even after being appointed principal in 1961. When a full-time principalship was established in 1965, she accepted the position, and then continued to serve the school in that capacity until her retirement in December of 1986. During her years here, Mrs. Woolrich oversaw the development of St. Francis from a small neighborhood school into one of the city's foremost educational institutions.

Mrs. Woolrich's positive influence will forever be part of the character of St. Francis. When a fund was established in 2002 to provide special learning opportunities for our school's faculty and staff, it was named the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty in her honor.

2018–19

### Woolrich Committee

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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF  
EXTRAORDINARY LEARNING EXPERIENCES



## Sarah W. Woolrich

FUND FOR FACULTY

*A TRUE EDUCATOR NEVER STOPS LEARNING.*

At St. Francis, we believe that by offering our faculty inspired professional development opportunities, we're also providing our students with the best teachers in the land. Named for our school's exceptional first principal, the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty nurtures real-world experiences that translate words on a page into engaging lessons in the classroom.

# Adventures of a Lifetime: Sarah W. Woolrich

## FUND FOR FACULTY

When promising students meet passionate educators, one-of-a-kind learning awaits. For fifteen years, the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty has provided St. Francis teachers with the type of learning adventures that ignite classrooms, inspire curiosity, and bring the far-away to the fingertips. Established in honor of our esteemed first principal, Sarah W. "Sally" Woolrich, these awards underwrite unique professional development journeys that span the globe—from mapping the migration of polar bears to traveling the ancient Silk Road to exploring the Holy Roman Empire.

Thanks to the generosity of our St. Francis community, life-changing trips and training serve to spark the imagination of our world-class faculty. The first-hand insight, hands-on lessons, and artifacts they return with truly bring learning to life. So teaching becomes transformative. And students become scholars.

### LITERATURE Ali Salinas

How do traditional oral stories like Cinderella, The Frog Prince, and Rapunzel tie in to both the historic German countryside and rich literature lessons at St. Francis? Ali Salinas, our curriculum and instruction specialist, set out to show us. Last summer, she traveled to medieval towns including Hamelin, Marburg, and Bremen on a German Fairy Tale and Berlin Rail Circle Tour to visit the very landscapes that inspired the fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm more than 200 years ago. Mrs. Salinas says she's always found traditional tales an incredible source of entertainment and education—as well as valuable life lessons. After journeying through 12 cities home to museums, old-world marketplaces, and the occasional castle, she's carried her magical moments back into our kindergarten through fourth-grade classrooms. There, Mrs. Salinas will incorporate student theatre scripts, character exploration, real-world situation reflection, and culture and geography studies drawn from the deep roots of our Western storytelling heritage.



### HISTORY AND TRAVEL Angela Flowers

Students experiencing history. This is how Head of Curriculum and Instruction Angela Flowers envisions the eye-opening moments our Upper School travel program promises. To kick off planning of tours that will expose our future high schoolers to events that defined the 20th century—and whose ripples can still be felt today—Ms. Flowers trekked through Germany, Croatia, Holland, Hungary, and Switzerland, on a trip behind the former Iron Curtain. Along the way, she visited politically significant sites influenced by Nazi Germany, including the Reichstag, Topography of Terror, sites of Nazi book burnings, the remnants of the Berlin Wall, and Potsdam, where the Cold War first took shape. By stepping back in time herself, Ms. Flowers hopes to eventually help students better understand the Holocaust and its lasting effects on Eastern Europe. In the meantime, she'll share souvenirs, video clips, photos, and firsthand insight with both the Middle School history department and her fellow Upper School team members as they prepare for an engaging travel program that will bridge classrooms, disciplines, and viewpoints.



### CAMPUS SAFETY Kimberly Dunn

Based on simple principles and instinctive movements, Krav Maga is a self-defense and martial arts system that serves Israeli Defense Forces as well as the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies. Kimberly Dunn, assistant head of Middle School, is taking part in a year's worth of Krav Maga training to learn techniques to help create a safer environment for our students while also reaping the physical and emotional benefits of fitness. Designed around easy-to-learn skills that offer protection in common assault situations, as well as against weapon attack, the method emphasizes quick-mindedness during the stress of a sudden, violent encounter. Armed with this comprehensive and ongoing training, Mrs. Dunn will share tips on handling school crisis situations with our faculty, and plans to teach a student self-defense summer camp in 2019 that will center on basic maneuvers plus lessons on identifying dangerous situations and making behavioral threat assessments—boosting confidence and the likelihood of a positive outcome in case of emergency.



### FINE ARTS Amy Chandler and Julia Traber

Middle School fine arts faculty peers Amy Chandler (visual arts) and Julia Traber (performing arts) recently set sail for the Land of the Rising Sun! Actually, they flew there, but the inspiration they found in experiencing the artistic works of ancient and modern masters put the billow right into their creative sails. The transformative trip comprised visits to Japan's capital, Tokyo, as well as the ancient city of Kyoto, plus additional adventures en route. In Tokyo, the two toured a number of renowned museums and the Imperial Palace, visited centuries-old temples and shrines, and drank in the cultural tonic of Japanese theatre and a traditional tea ceremony. The Kyoto leg of the trip saw further immersion in the country's architectural and artistic history, with stops at Nijo Castle and calligraphy and craft workshops. Back at St. Francis, Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. Traber look forward to creative collaboration that will introduce students to new art forms and storytelling styles like woodblock printing, Kabuki and Noh theatre, and manga design.



### LITERATURE Melanie Wallace and Lydia Urbanek

It made sense that fellow bibliophiles Melanie Wallace and Lydia Urbanek would want to spend a storybook week in grand Paris, since many of the beloved fairy tales they share with our students first found a voice there. It was in the 1600s when Charles Perrault, a French nobleman, began to collect oral tales and publish them—leading to today's tales that psychologists credit with helping children learn critical-thinking skills, resiliency, and hope. Our director of library services and library services coordinator, respectively, visited La Bibliothèque Nationale de France to see volumes of Perrault's work, then checked out local landmarks such as the fountains of Versailles, the Eiffel Tower, and Notre Dame, which are featured in several favorite children's books. Through their travels, our maidens were able to enrich the stories they've brought back to our St. Francis students—well aware of the creativity, sharpened memory, and verbal proficiency that go hand in hand with the gift of reading.



### STAGE TECHNOLOGY Carlo Minotti

A "fixer" at heart, Carlo Minotti says wood, wire, and steel have been the building blocks of his life from an early age. In high school, his creativity took the form of woodworking and metalwork classes, and his love for construction today means lots of handcrafted gifts for family and friends. So, it's no surprise that his work on the Middle School technology faculty at St. Francis includes his role as stage tech instructor, for which he and his students design and construct stage sets for our fine arts productions. While these props are typically crafted from wood, cardboard, and foam, Mr. Minotti hopes to bypass their limitations in size and strength by incorporating welded metal structures. To this end, he is working toward mastering metal fabrication through a series of welding classes offered by FMW FabLab. With lessons ranging from carbon steel MIG welding to fabrication and practical applications, he aims to share his newfound skills with students to create reusable metal framing for stage productions. An added bonus? He'll also happily help our art and STEAM classes with their 3-D project needs.

