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The Santa Fe Arts Commission, an agency within the City of Santa Fe, provides leadership by and for the City to support arts and cultural affairs. The Arts Commission also recommends programs and policies that develop, sustain and promote artistic excellence in the community.
Even in challenging and unusual times, there is much to be grateful for. As students gathered online for this winter's poetry units of study with ArtWorks, I invited them to put on goggles of gratitude to look out at the world and create odes, or poems of celebration.

Our inspiration was poet, grandmother and teaching artist Joan Logghe, who read us poems that included an ode to water and an ode to a New Mexican hero - the pinto bean! Ms. Logghe also shared her magical animal poetry, in which a raven and a coyote spoke to us of their unique movements and flashing colors.

In some classes, we focused our praise on different forms of water, sparked by Ms. Logghe's salute to water, in which she spoke to and questioned water about its many forms and sounds. You will see that other classes expanded the scope of their odes to address other non-human subjects.

We hope that this collection of poetry inspires a grateful gaze at this textured and sonically surprising world.

The visual art in this book was created during ArtWorks units of study, where works of art were explored with visual teaching artists Wendy Chapin, Gregory Gutin, Claire LaRose, and Lucy Ranney.

**Esmé Olivia**
ArtWorks Poetry
Teaching Artist
ArtWorks Poetry Reading 2021

In years past, ArtWorks gathered students and teachers in hallowed Santa Fe spaces, like the New Mexico History Museum, for a poetry reading from a local poet, hearing their observations, musings, and wonderments.

We cannot say this year was no different – as we all know, it was very different.

But even in online classrooms, the essence of our poetry readings remained the same: sharing, wondering, and processing the world - albeit strange - this past year.

After teaching with ArtWorks for 13 years, Joan Logghe stepped back as a teaching artist and instead served as our local poet for the readings. Joan called on students to witness the changing world around them.

Poetry from these workshops is a poignant time capsule of the past year, recorded by our talented young poets.

Overall, more than 150 students from El Camino Real Academy, Carlos Gilbert, Amy Biehl, Acequia Madre, Nava, and Chaparral eagerly tuned in to these live online poetry readings and workshops with Joan and teaching artist Esmé Olivia.
Ode to My Bunny
By Isabella Hernandez

My bunny “Cottontail” I love you so,
I will always hug you and never let you go.

I watch you hop around all day,
It brings me joy to see you play.

My favorite thing to do with you
Push you in your stroller.

When I cuddle with you, I fall asleep
Because you are so soft and sweet.

I love you Cottontail, I certainly do
The way you let me cuddle you,
I think you love me too.

El Camino Real Academy
Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 5th grade
Ode to Frustration
By Zhenko Pratt Craig

Frustration is not fun because you can’t think
and you can’t get things done,
and everything is harder.

You can get frustrated and give up,
You can get frustrated by doing something hard.

You become angry and sad,
You want to do something bad.

To get rid of frustration,
You take deep breaths and count to 10.

My brother gets frustrated when he does his schoolwork,
and goes crazy mad.

El Camino Real Academy
Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 4th grade
**Ode to Clothes**  
By Jonathan Montijo Gomez  
Hey clothes, why are you so flexible  
Is it because you are made out of fabric?  
Why are you so colorful  
Is it because I colored on you  
on purpose when I was a little kid?  
You are so useful  
In winter, fall, spring and summer  
The problem is...  
You get dirty really fast!  

*El Camino Real Academy*  
*Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 4th grade*

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**Mayah’s Cucumber**  
By Mayah Salazar  
See me and my cucumber  
Peeled, chopped  
With salt on top  
I even like the seeds inside  
Juicy and good  
Dripping down the side  

*Tesuque Elementary*  
*Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 1st grade*
ArtWorks was started in 2001 by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission when parents and educators approached the Arts Commission for help in providing quality arts programming to public elementary school children. Since 2001, ArtWorks has grown to serve up to 75 teachers and 2,000 students annually.

In 2010, ArtWorks became a program of the Partners in Education Foundation for the Santa Fe Public Schools, a non-profit organization capable of guiding ArtWorks into its second decade and beyond. ArtWorks' mission remains unchanged: to make the arts personally meaningful to public school students and teachers through an integrated program of arts-making, viewing live performances and exhibits and achieving understanding by inquiry and reflection.

Through ArtWorks, students enjoy special artist-led tours of Santa Fe’s wonderful museum exhibits and performances by Santa Fe’s world-class performing arts organizations. Classroom workshops led by teaching artists prepare students for these artistic field trips and provide students with opportunities to make their own art inspired by what they saw, heard or felt.

This year, the entire ArtWorks program went virtual to accommodate online classrooms. This included transitioning to virtual field trips with museums and performing arts organizations making content available in online formats.
Ode to Pizza
By Mariana Reyes

Your melted cheese
So smooth
And thick,
Makes golden threads
That glisten and stick.

Your pepperoni
In chunk after chunk
Adds circles of spice
With extra spunk.

Your crust that crunches
Crisp and loud
Is puffy inside
Like a cumulus cloud.

Oh, luscious pizza,
I don’t think twice.
I always gobble slice
After slice.

El Camino Real Academy
Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 4th grade
Ode to Snow
By Carlos Signala Leon

You look so white
It’s almost like you are bright light.

You are cold
Cold and dry
Cold and wet
Changing through time.

The more I wait,
The more you melt.

El Camino Real Academy
Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 8th grade

Tomás Griego
Chaparral Elementary School
Teacher: Angela Abbate, 6th Grade
Ode to Wolves
By Pilar Montez-Coss

Awooooo!
Do you hear that? What is that?
A coyote, a fox,
Wait -
No, it's a wolf.

You and your pack
Sing to the moon to wake it up
With your peaceful, amazing, loud howl.

Why do you do it?
Is it because you love to sing?
Or is it because you like to talk to your friends.

You sing night and day.
You walk peacefully with your pack.

You are fast and curious like the wind.
You are calm but strong and magical like water.

You are adventurous and fearless like fire.
You are beautiful and sweet like nature.

Your amazing features represent the elements.
You bring harmony to the forest.
You are the wolf.

El Camino Real Academy
Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 3rd grade
Books of Adventure
By Adary Amador Valzquez

Today I went to the bookstore,
Indecisive of what I should get.

Should I get an action book and fight pirates?
Or should I read a graphic novel and watch it all happen?

I always find myself in that section but today I decided to read a category I normally don’t read.

That is chapter books, I choose one.
When I started reading it,
It felt like reading a script to a movie.

That movie was just starting in my head.

El Camino Real Academy
Teacher: Deborah Hawthorne, 3rd grade
**Ode to Summer**
By Alex Bobolsky

Oh, sweet warm Summer,
You bring freedom and warmth to the cold isolation
of winter.
Summer, do you understand that you’re the relief to my
winter dreariness?
Summer, you shed my inner layers of loneliness and expose
the happiness within me.

Oh, sticky sweet Summer, I welcome your warmth
and sunshine.

I remember walking on the beach;
with the wind blowing through my hair,
bringing me closer to the world around me.
Oh, Summer, why do you feel so far away?

Is it because you want me to look forward to you more?
Or is it because you want me to wallow without you?
The sound of seagulls,
The salt in the air,
The scent of sunscreen on my back.

Oh, Summer, I welcome you back to me!

*Carlos Gilbert Elementary School*
*Teacher: Erin Cherry, 6th grade*

Ariella Miller
Amy Biehl Community School
Teacher: Aviva Markowitz, 6th grade
Ode to Google Meet
By Tyson Ross

Meet you now are our school,
Why are you not Zoom?
You are still enough for class,
For learning all we need to learn,
Meet you now are school.

You are created by Google
We all are not together,
Only through this app.
Without you we would not be learning,
Meet how long will you be our school?

Carlos Gilbert Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Cherry, 6th grade

Ode to the Sun
By Eve Sanchez

Why you gotta be so hot, but I like it
Thank you for the sunshine for my plants.

Why do you make my so happy,
seeing your golden glow through my window

You feel so good on my face when outside
I wish I could taste your golden shine.

I see you almost every day
If you had a voice it would sound wonderful.

I could almost smell your happiness.
Why do you have to be so great?

Carlos Gilbert Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Cherry, 6th grade
An Ode to Snow
By Connor Gonzales

Snow sprinkles on the ground
Looks like a cake I just found.

Should I eat it since it looks like a cake?
I guess I should before it’s too late.

As it falls down the air smells great
Looks like all the kids took the bait.

You touch it and it’s cold like ice.
You taste it and it’s like a snow cone.

The sun is out, so how can it snow?
Is it hot or cold outside.

The ground is smiling to have a drink,
I don’t know what to think.

I walk on it and it crunches
So smooth the snow sits in bunches.

I grab a handful to throw in the air
Before I know it, nothing is there.

Carlos Gilbert Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Cherry, 6th grade

Chaparral Elementary School
Teacher: Angela Abbate, 6th Grade
My Ode to Crepes
By Gabriel Barker

Crepes, the perfect breakfast hybrid,
The mix of a waffle and a pancake.

So many ways to cook things with it -
Nutella, powdered sugar, fruit.

Or maybe a savory crepe is the one that suits
Ham, tomatoes, spinach, lettuce.

Any ingredient with crepes won’t upset us.
How, crepe, do you do what you do?

So many ingredients to use, it’s true,
The beautiful smell and sight of a crepe,
Is one that will make me never escape.

Carlos Gilbert Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Cherry, 6th grade
Ode to Chairs
By Samaera Chandra

Thanks for giving me somewhere to sit.
Somewhere to stand when I can’t reach a glass.

Thank you for making a barricade for a door.
And how is it that you never scratch the floor?

You’re something to put at a desk or a dinner table
You’re wooden, you’re metal, you’re soft and you’re hard
You rock and you swing.

Oh, what does it feel like to be a chair?

Carlos Gilbert Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Cherry, 6th grade
An Ode To Salt
By Aaron Sanchez

Salt, you are like white sands.
Whenever I look through a magnifying glass
My eyes see the little grains.

And whenever I grab a pinch,
I feel the tiny grains like dirt
When it rubs against my skin.

Salt, you get stuck between my fingers
Just like sand between my toes.
When I breathe in the salt,
It's like the salty ocean.

And when you're on food you preserve the taste,
Keeping it fresh.
And whenever you're on fries
And you touch my tongue,
My mouth tastes like the briny ocean.

And whenever you get ground by the salt shaker,
I hear you breaking from big pieces to little pieces.
And as you fall, you're like snow falling down onto the ground.

Carlos Gilbert Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Cherry, 6th grade

Sarah A. Rodriguez-Pizar
Amy Biehl Community School
Teacher: Rebecca Zamora Van Sice, Kindergarten
**Crocodile**  
By Khalil Albadri

Crocodile  
I am slow.

I hiss and grow.  
I am green and have sharp teeth and a tail.

I eat fish.  
I live in hot places near water.

*Nava Elementary School  
Teacher: Jen Kennedy, 3rd grade ESL class*

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**Tiger**  
By Luis Davin Borrayo

I zoom on the ground. I eat meat.  
I am big.  
I live in a tree.  
I make a noise: roar!

I am a tiger.

*Nava Elementary School  
Teacher: Jen Kennedy, 3rd grade ESL class*
Cat
By Joshua Gonzales

I knock plants over.
I say meow!

I live in a house.
I have ears.

Nava Elementary School
Teacher: Jen Kennedy, 3rd grade ESL class
Snake
By Isaac Gonzales

I like to move slowly.
I eat rats alive in the desert.
I have small teeth.

Nava Elementary School
Teacher: Jen Kennedy, 3rd grade
ArtWorks At Nava Elementary

In 2011 Nava Elementary School invited ArtWorks to launch its first school-wide implementation. For years we have been collecting information from teachers that demonstrates how powerful the program is, but we hadn’t had the opportunity to work with the same students in consecutive years to prove the long-term impact.

Fortunately, funders understood the value of a school-wide program and provided the necessary support for program evaluation that would provide statistical information on whether or not ArtWorks helped students succeed in school. ArtWorks contracted with the University of New Mexico to design and conduct just such an in-depth evaluation. The UNM results indicate what teachers have been reporting for years—ArtWorks makes school more interesting and helps students succeed academically. The ArtWorks methodology allows students to discover personal connections to their schoolwork, and it is these personal connections that draw students into the lessons and inspire creativity, curiosity, and a life-long interest in learning.
The Sparkling Glitter
By Jeconiah Avila

The sparkling glitter falls from the sky.
It drops, then lands to cease from sight.
The glowing white substance shines bright in the sun.
Its comforting softness and its lightness
Its moldable fluff in which it sticks.
The magical substance that is all to your will.

But it melts away and goes astray.
But it sets from the treads and it sinks away.
But it rots and slops, for its staying is nay
But it stops, and it blots, and it dulls to its darkest grey

As it is to be seen another day

Acequia Madre Elementary
Teacher: Doreen Stanton, 6th grade

Sarah Sanchez
Chaparral Elementary School
Teacher: Angela Abbate, 6th Grade
It all started when the coyote Ale was roaming the desert with her good friend, Diego.

Diego was friends with Ale for a good 3 years. But Ale, the coyote has been trying to eat her good friend.

But another friend of Ale, the fox, didn’t let her eat Diego. They all made up and were still friends.
Rain
By Tenzin Choeyang Gyalkar

Rain, you are so calming and beautiful,
You clear my thoughts.

Rain, rain, why are you going away?
Rain, rain, is it because they told you to?

Rain rain go away come again another day
They sing that song but when you come back,
They just sing it again.

But Rain, you have given so much
for us to gain.

You drizzle, splash, and sprinkle.
Thank you, Rain, for giving life,
making me happy, calming me down,
and for your sounds.

Acequia Madre Elementary
Teacher: Doreen Stanton, 6th grade

Danielle Alcaraz
Chaparral Elementary School
Teacher: Angela Abbate, 6th Grade
Staring at the Frost
By Archer Land

I stare at the frost covering my window.
Not quite snow,
Not quite water,
Not quite ice,
Yet all three in one.

How do you look so peaceful?
Like ice, but you can't crack.
Like snow, soft but less careful.

How can you be the best of so many things?

You're so quiet as you creep up the walls and glass.
With your frozen fractals with patterns of many millions of shapes within shapes.

How can anyone ever be this pure?
Thank you frost in your mighty wake,
And for all the things that you are and that you are not.

I think about these things as I stare out my window covered in frost.

Acequia Madre Elementary
Teacher: Doreen Stanton, 6th grade
The Waves of the Ocean
By Jasper Lee

Waves, you tumble, rumble, and crash into the beach.
You can obliterate mountains, or guide ships to safety.
You are big and small, fast and slow.
You slow down on the beach and are reborn back in the ocean.
Your cycle has never ended and we all hope it won’t.
Oh waves, How did you come to be?

Acequia Madre Elementary
Teacher: Doreen Stanton, 6th grade
It was fox’s birthday. Bear, pig, and coyote were planning a surprise party! After getting the party ready for fox, coyote got jealous and dumped the cake on the floor on purpose!

Then pig and bear made a new cake and coyote said sorry. They had a great party!
Snow
By Myles Leonard

Snow, you drift float and blanket the ground with your soft and quiet flow,
Why do you drift onto my nose and face, what are you trying to tell me?
Why do you beckon my heart to the woods flurrying around and around,
Turning the sky a dark forgotten gray descending upon the earth.

You hold the keys to my heart, float down to the sugarhouse, down to the stream still flowing and singing with ice.

I thank you snow for guiding my skis back down to my family and home to rest my stinging face.

Snow, I want you to know that I’ll always remember your icy breath on the green mountains of home, and that you followed me here to comfort my fears on the new mountains that I call home.

O Snow, why do you beckon my heart?

Acequia Madre Elementary
Teacher: Doreen Stanton, 6th grade
Bodies of Water

By Cayden Stollis

Thank you oceans, puddles, and rain
all you do is amazing.

I love your waves, splashes, and life
I love the sound of a calm old river.

And the ocean’s beach with a little quiver
and when the rain hits the ground
Little drops one by one
just that sound

Or maybe even
a waterfall that plunges to the ground
maybe even a silent sound
like silent fog and its gauze.
And splashing puddles with rage
but most of all I love your gauge.

Acequia Madre Elementary
Teacher: Doreen Stanton, 6th grade
**Snow**

By Alice Beardmore

Branches on the evergreens are dressed in snowy white,
As soft as the moonlight,
it sparkles on this blanket of the night,

Delicate untouched and pure
Is found the ground below,
As gentle moon beams glim
On the freshly fallen snow.

*Acequia Madre Elementary*
*Teacher: Doreen Stanton, 6th grade*
ArtWorks at Gonzales Community School

ArtWorks has partnered with the New Mexico Museum of Art in a special program at Gonzales Community School. With financial assistance from the New Mexico Museum of Art, we have implemented ArtWorks in grades K-4 classes reaching over 250 students where we currently provide two units of study for each class, one centered around a field trip to the New Mexico Museum of Art, and one centered around a performing arts show. Our goal is to grow ArtWorks at Gonzales so that all teachers in grades K-8 who are interested in ArtWorks are able to participate in the program. Many thanks to the New Mexico Museum of Art for providing the support for this collaboration.
Joan Logghe

Joan Logghe served as Santa Fe Poet Laureate from 2010 to 2012. She has brought poetry into schools from kindergarten to university, from Chimayó to Zagreb, Croatia. She is the author of eight books of poetry and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry. She served as an ArtWorks teaching artist for 13 years.

Joan’s work prods the mysteries of earth, and its people and creatures. Ode to Water is one poem she read to students this year that then inspired their own poems.

Ode to Water

Hey water, why are you whistling at me?
Is it because you have the blues and can’t stop running?
Or is it because you evaporate my cool, sweet as breeze, slick as sliding music?

I salute you, waves and rills and rumbles.
Floods and arroyo crossings and little rivulets.
The puddle. The puddle! most humble of all yet each form of water wakes me, washes me,

I wallow. I grow hippo, I am Koi, I become mermaid and seal. Hey water, wassup?
I want to give you gratitude, I want to insure your clean dreaming pathways and your meander.

You flow ever on, oh water of mine. Hey water, what’s going on? Did you wander off and become steam or settle down into ice?
You have the prettiest attitude, pure and selfless.

You are the moon on earth. You run me and I am 70 percent you. You put the H2O in watermelon, you have the molecules I love best.
In hot summer when I dive, you always catch me.
A class thank-you from Marcella Stark’s Kindergarten class (Carlos Gilbert Elementary) after an online Unit of Study with teaching artist Melissa Briggs-Bransford.

ArtWorks During the Pandemic

This year, the entire ArtWorks program went virtual to accommodate online classrooms.

Our intrepid teaching artists worked hard to adapt to new considerations and provide critical arts education to SFPS students across the district throughout virtual learning. With the addition of Chromebooks, we were even able to add photography as a discipline!

Thanks to generous funding from the City of Santa Fe Arts & Culture Department through the CARES Act, ArtWorks offered eight public professional development workshops to help educators adapt to the online format.

In total, ArtWorks delivered 98 units of study:

- 9 poetry units of study, including live poetry readings with local poet Joan Logghe
- 18 dance units of study
- 12 music units of study, and
- 59 visual arts units of study

Many thanks also goes to our museum and performance partners for providing content for our online classrooms!
ArtWorks Unit of Study, Pre-Pandemic

Using a teaching methodology developed at the Lincoln Center Institute in New York City, ArtWorks’ faculty of accomplished teaching artists – professional musicians, visual artist, poets, actors, and dancers – connect students to art through a three-part Unit of Study:

1) An in-class workshop in which the teaching artist prepares students for the art they will experience on their upcoming field trip, and gives students the tools to describe, analyze, and interpret the art;

2) A field trip to see a performance by a world-class arts organization or a poetry reading by an acclaimed poet, or a visit to a renowned museum such as the New Mexico Museum of Art, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, the Museum of International Folk Art, or the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian.

3) A follow-up classroom workshop in which the teaching artist helps students reflect on the art they experienced. Students then create their own art that is meaningful to them based on what they saw, heard, or felt on the field trip.
Training Teachers

The public school teachers trained in the ArtWorks experiential teaching methodology not only use it when partnering with ArtWorks' teaching artists, but may also employ it in their daily lesson planning. The ArtWorks methodology is adapted from Lincoln Center Institute in New York City. It uses inquiry – open-ended questioning similar to that used in scientific investigation; reflection – an activity that allows for a deeper, nuanced understanding of ideas; and art-making – drawing, writing, dancing, acting, singing, composing, or a combination of activities that allow a student's imagination and curiosity to awaken.

ArtWorks' teacher trainings are intensive summer institutes and professional development workshops held during the school year. Teacher trainings are augmented by the support of colleagues who are veteran ArtWorks teachers and who act as mentors to teachers new to ArtWorks' methodology.
Ode to Skateboard
By Sol Johnson

Skateboard makes me face my fears and have fun,
Gets me tired when I am done.

Skateboard, you make my life 10 times better
You sometimes get me mad
but give a boost of energy inside of me when I land a trick

The adrenaline rushes through me when I go down a steep hill.
So now I say it: thank you Skateboard!

Amy Biehl Community School
Teacher: Aviva Markowitz, 6th grade
**Tree**
By Matthew Lazaro Perez

Oh tree, why
are you so
wavy?

With your leaves
high
above me,
you stand tall with pride.

Oh my friend tree, with your branches
so high.

You make me fall in bed.
I look at you from my window.

I feel relaxed
when I hear your leaves make noise.

*Amy Biehl Community School*
*Teacher: Aviva Markowitz, 6th grade*

Eleah Duran
Amy Biehl Community School
Teacher: Aviva Markowitz, 6th grade
Ode To My Dog
By Julian Quintana

I love when you get excited when you see me.  
Your tail feels like a bone sometimes and it's funny.

But not when you hit me with it!  
You make me happy when I feel down.

Amy Biehl Community School  
Teacher: Aviva Markowitz, 6th grade
**Helium**
By Felicia Tapia

Oh Helium,
You make both balloons and our voices go high.
You were found by the sun, mistaken for sodium.
Given your name from the sun.
You are found from the undergrounds.
But do people see the real importance of you?
You were used in wars to fill up lookout balloons.
You help people with lung problems live.
You pressurize rockets so that they can go.

*Chaparral Elementary School*
*Teacher: Angela Abbate, 6th Grade*

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**Rhenium**
by Danielle Alcaraz

The color of silver bells and snow.
As old as the Great Gatsby.

As naturally occurring as the Rhine River.

It's boiling

Boiling hot!

*Chaparral Elementary School*
*Teacher: Angela Abbate, 6th Grade*
Dear Zinc
by Nate Blundell

Dear Zinc,
You shine and scratch.
You’re nice and soft.
Oh how graceful you look.
I love you rock.
Thank you for being a reliable resource for diets.
Thank you for being a reliable element.
So pretty and sparkly.
Do you know how beautiful you are?
You were built with power.
I wonder why you shine.
So malleable and incredible.
Thank you zinc.
I wonder if you know that you glow.
Your crystal form, a true beauty to see.
An incredible element the rest of them want to be.

Chaparral Elementary School
Teacher: Angela Abbate, 6th Grade

Norah Holladay
Mandela International Magnet School
Teacher: Kelly Rider, 7th Grade
Ode to My Hat
By Eden Rodriguez

Hi Hat,
Remember all those memories and adventures that you had 14 years before me?

You were my dad’s and now you are with me.
We are going to have big adventures that will soon turn into memories.

Just looking at you makes me think that you were my dad’s.
And gives me courage, and my heart starts to glow
Even though you are a little old and tattered with love.

I thank this hat.
It gives me everything I need to be me.

Amy Biehl Community School
Teacher: Aviva Markowitz, 6th grade
An Ode To My Bed
By Bryan Martinez

Bed, without you, I would be sleeping on the floor, restless thinking about life if I could sleep on you.

In desperate need of sleep, you can help with that, so that my dreams can take me to a wonderous place other than my thoughts when I'm awake.

You help me relax when I'm nervous or scared of something.
Although sometimes you get uncomfortable to sleep in, and sometimes I think you do not like me?

But I forgive you if you thought that way.
I would not like it if someone was sleeping on me for 10 hours a day either.

Thank you for being there for me bed.
You are very helpful and without you, I would be in an endless loop of tiredness like a donut or racetrack.

I would be nothing if I didn’t have you bed!

*Amy Biehl Community School*
*Teacher: Aviva Markowitz, 6th grade*
ArtWorks Teaching Artists

ArtWorks’ greatest asset is its faculty of Teaching Artists. ArtWorks Teaching Artists include actors, dancers, poets, musicians and visual artists. All have been trained in ArtWorks’ experiential teaching methodology and all have extensive experience working with elementary school children.

As working artists, the Teaching Artists bring fresh energy and enthusiasm to classrooms. Students are excited to work with real artists, and teachers enjoy the role reversal as they participate in TA-led workshops as if they were students. Observing the class from this perspective gives teachers new insights into how to reach and inspire their students, especially those they may have struggled to connect with earlier in the year.

Teaching Artists

**Melissa Briggs-Bransford** is a graduate of New York University/Tisch School of the Arts and Smith College. For over 20 years, she has taught young people ages three to university age in schools and arts programs in New York City, Brooklyn, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Albuquerque. Melissa is currently on faculty at both NDI New Mexico and UNM.

**Wendy Chapin** has taught acting to ages 7 - 70 for over 30 years. She directed such plays as *Good People* by David Lindsay Abaire and *Gideon’s Knot* by Johnna Adams. She also directed *Luna Gale, Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Bonjour La Bonjour* for the Adobe Rose Theater. Wendy is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Directing Fellowship.
Esmé Olivia grew up in traditional Tiwa Pueblo lands known as Albuquerque, NM, to a Mestiza Mexican-American mother and Dutch-Jewish father. Her blood is a peace treaty she honors through prayers of dance, poetry and song. She received her BA from Hampshire College in multi-disciplinary performance and arts-based education. She has worked as an artist educator with many groups in New Mexico and beyond, including The Identity Project and the Institute of American Indian Arts. Esmé is a company member with Dancing Earth Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations.

Gregory Gutin is a musician, artist, educator and art therapist, working primarily with children and adolescents. He is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and received his Masters in Art Therapy from Southwestern College. Besides ArtWorks, he is currently working as a counselor at New Mexico School for the Arts. Gregory is deeply committed to helping youth find healthy passage into adulthood through creativity and hope.

Claire LaRose is an interdisciplinary artist and educator, devoted to creative exploration and observation through interactive, process-based learning. She has taught at numerous museums and arts organizations including the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, the Museum of International Folk Art and the de Young Museum. Claire received her teaching degree from Bradley University and studied art history at the University of Colorado, Boulder.
Oliver Prezant is a lecturer and educator for the Santa Fe Opera and has presented programs for numerous arts organizations and museums including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the San Francisco Opera Guild, The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum and The Albuquerque Museum of Art. As a violist, he performed with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, the Santa Fe Opera, and the California Chamber Virtuosi. Oliver studied conducting at The Pierre Monteux School, and is a graduate of The Mannes College of Music in New York City.

Estefania Ramirez debuted at the Royal Albert Hall, London, England, at 17. For over 13 years, she worked in Spain as a resident professional dance artist and educator and taught movement at universities and conservatories; she created public education dance curriculum for the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Education. In 2019, she was presented as the leading figure of North American flamenco dance soloists at the Women in Dance International Dance Conference. Currently, she is a mentor for the Center for Flamenco Arts in NYC and co-directs Entreflamenco, El Flamenco Performance Cabaret in Santa Fe.

Lucy Ranney is a fiber and visual artist and a native of Santa Fe, who currently works in the public schools as a visiting artist and has been teaching in the community for a number of years. She studied Fine Art at the University of New Mexico and has a BA in Spanish and Latin American Studies, as well as an MA in Spanish from Colorado State University. Lucy is passionate about connecting students to art in a hands-on, cross-cultural and multi-dimensional manner.
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