

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

SFSI ANNUAL REPORT





A WORD FROM THE BOARD

For 22 years, the Santa Fe Science Initiative (SFSI) has been dedicated to its mission of “Nurturing the Art of Doing Science and Promoting Scientific Literacy in Northern New Mexico.” Throughout these many years, SFSI has promoted and stimulated inquiry science education through professional development workshops supporting instruction in grades K-8. We have focused this effort with workshops that emphasize a deeper understanding of science content knowledge by modeling inquiry science with classroom teaching strategies that engage students.

Since the 2020 Pandemic, our professional development strategies have adapted. Mindful of the changing needs of teachers, SFSI staff /consultants provide state -of -the art professional development in a variety of appropriate outdoor, indoor and virtual settings. Stimulating educators to use the wealth of Santa Fe community resources and inviting outdoor classroom opportunities in their individual schools.

Our unique programing format has grown through our partnerships with the Audubon Center, Santa Fe Watershed and talented professional educators in the community. This expansion has offered teachers a new range of topics as well as a new awareness of local, accessible outdoor venues for field trips and opportunities for classroom collaboration.

As we meet the challenges of the coming year 2024-2025, we are looking forward to inspiring more teachers with an exciting array of workshops that have emerged in response teacher’s requests and our wealth of staff expertise.

SUSAN MCINTOSH AND **DIANE GARBER**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOARD PRESIDENT





PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

SFSI offered a variety of programs in the 2023-2024 school year.

Fall Seed Walk. September 30, 2023

Take a walk with Bob Sivinski, former state botanist, and Mollie Parsons, environmental educator, to learn about the plants in our region and their seeds. This class will focus on plant identification and how to incorporate botany into your classroom.

Science Literacy, November 11, 2023

Engaging students with non-fiction texts is important. This workshop will explore reading efficiently to find information, understanding core concepts, and being able to show what has been learned in multiple written and graphic formats.

Schoolyard Birding, January 27, 2024

(Canceled due to illness) Enjoy learning about common birds with simple observation and identification activities with Katie Weeks, Director of Education and Audubon Southwest. Explore inquiry activities from habitat to feeders. Find new ways to use observational data and contribute to community science in your classroom.

Bring Biology to Life in the Dead of Winter, February 10, 2024

Olivia Carril will explore cross-cutting concepts that engage learners in K-8 about the natural world when it is too cold for bird-watching, too early to grow a garden, and the ground is too frozen for earthworms.

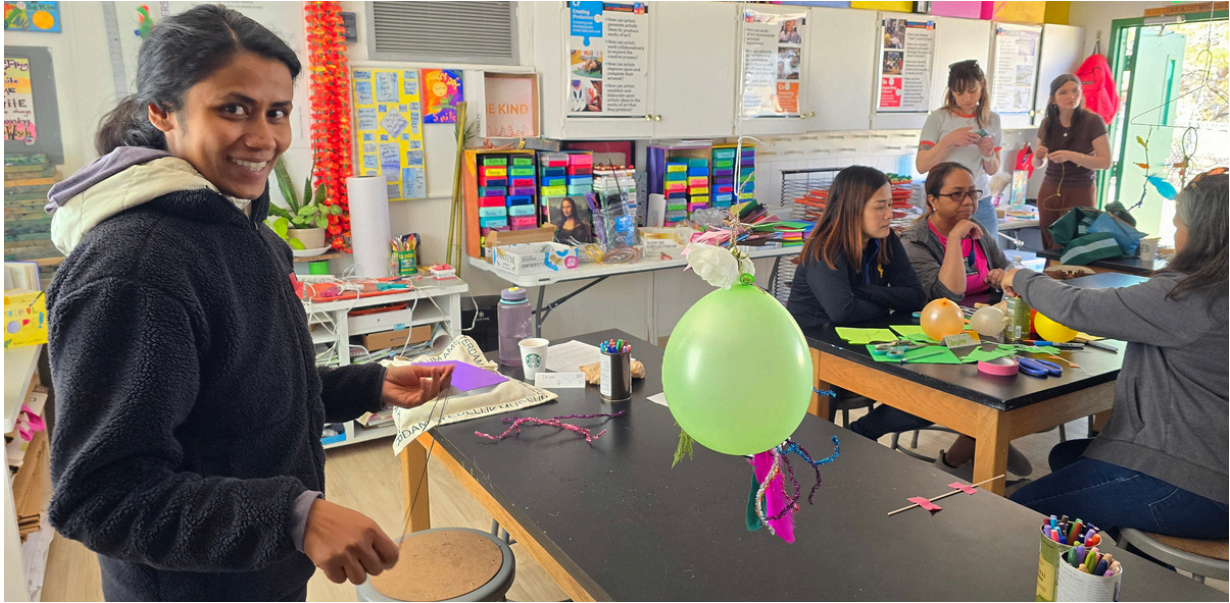
Project Wet, Getting Little Feet Wet, March 2, 2024

Getting Little Feet Wet activities are designed for early childhood teachers, pre-k through first or second grade. This workshop provides action and science-focused water education using diverse water topics to inspire educators to teach young children through objective, experiential activities that support a water sustainable future.

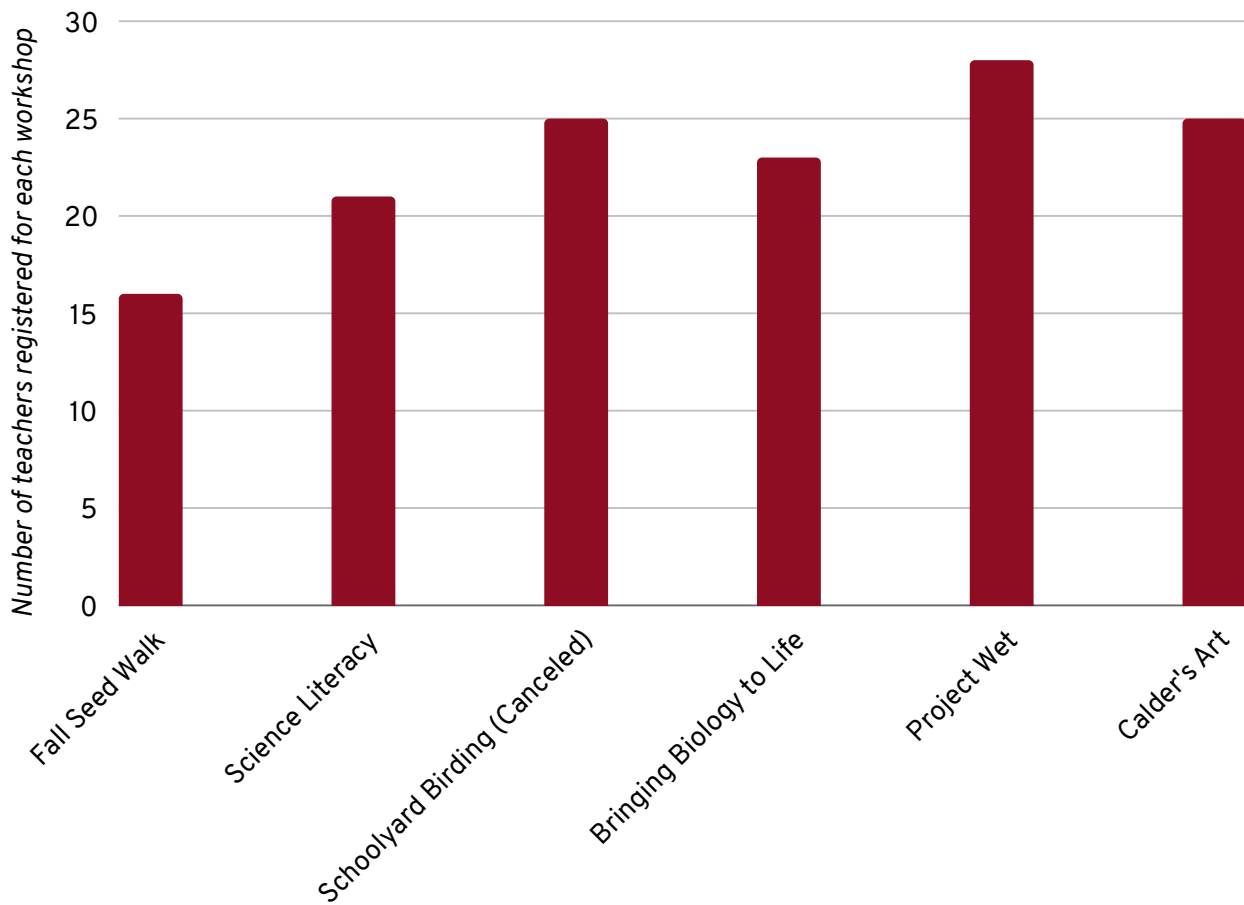
Calder's Art: Movement and Balance, April 13, 2024

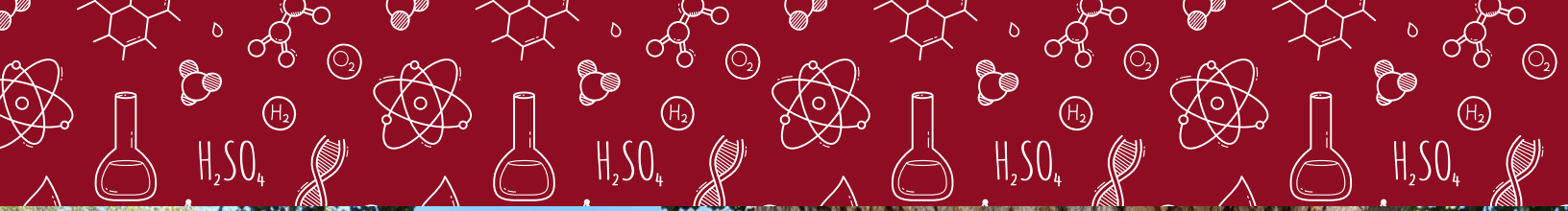
Explore how art, science, and math are interconnected in this hands-on mobile and stable workshop focused on Calder and his kinetic art.





PROGRAM REGISTRATION





WHAT IS NEXT?

We are excited to continue to offer programs in the 2024-2025 school year. We have six exciting sessions scheduled. We are also planning on focusing on the following growth points:

- Expand attendance to include more first time attendees
- Designate time for teacher reflection with an emphasis on how teachers would use PD in their classrooms
- Post examples of classroom science activities related to workshops on our website.



BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thank you to everyone who helps support our work!

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