



Chicago Students Explore Science in Spring Filmmaking Workshops

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In Spring 2009, students from two Chicago Public Schools will have the unique opportunity to enhance creativity, broaden comprehension and improve self-esteem through a science-based arts-integrated residency in filmmaking. Thanks to the **Hot Topic Foundation, the Alphawood Foundation, the Polk Bros. Foundation and Science Chicago**, students at Charles R. Darwin Elementary School and Prescott Magnet Cluster School are tackling current scientific issues as part of the Chicago International Children's Film Festival's (CICFF) "Dream Screen: Animated Science" filmmaking workshop. Led by CICFF trained teaching artists Kathleen Beckmann and Ann Vikstrom, CPS students focus on making an animated film based on the scientific issues they find most relatable to their own life experiences.



Darwin Elementary, located in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, collaborated in teams to produce an original film based on the science of smoking. Their film, "Smoking Has Consequences", explores the chemical components of cigarettes and reveals the scientific principles underlying the biological and anatomical effects of smoking. The three day "Science immersion" is the cornerstone of the invaluable hands-on learning experience that **Animated Science** offers students.

Prescott Cluster Magnet School, on the North Side of Chicago, is next up to partner with the CICFF for **Dream Screen: Animated Science**

What a great opportunity for Prescott students to learn from Facets! Children can apply their reading insights, creativity, and writing skills to imagine new worlds and re-invent the current one. On top of that, they learn to focus on a project as a team - each contributing to and leading the work. I'm looking forward to seeing the children's work with Facets! - Mr. Erin W. Roche, Principal, Prescott Magnet Cluster School

For both schools, the program will culminate with an all-school screening that celebrates the students' achievements.



Dream Screen: Animated Science is produced in collaboration with **Science Chicago** to give students direct experience in making a film about the scientific ideas that are affecting our culture, our families and our world. "Kids love the creative challenge of using film to bring a to life in ways that send a message to their peers. 'Dream Screen' gives them a chance to build their skills as visual artists, performers and thinkers," says workshop leader, Kathleen Beckmann.

For further information, please contact Patrick Ogle, Press Manager at (773) 281-9075 or kidsfest@facets.org



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