

Science & the Silver Screen!

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CICFF "Animated Science" Program at Prescott School Debuts Student-Produced Film

CHICAGO, IL - June 4, 2009 - With support from Science Chicago, the Polk Bros Foundation and the Alphawood Foundation, the CICFF recently partnered with William H. Prescott Elementary School to write and produce films while learning about the scientific world through the *Dream Screen: Animated Science Workshop*. The culmination of the three-week (April 20 - May 8, 2009) workshop was the June 4 World Premiere of the students' film, *The H1N1 Flu and You*, which used a cut-out animation technique to detail the journey of a swine flu virus from its point of mutation in Mexico to a tourist who travels to Chicago. Students ages 9-14 developed the story to inform about the flu's transmission, symptoms, and treatment.



The film's topic was chosen through a vote among students - nearly 70% of whom are Hispanic and have family in or have themselves visited Mexico. Before work



started on the actual film, students participated in a three-day "science immersion" in which they were introduced to the environmental sciences, conservation, pollution, and health awareness (which included discussions on nutrition and the effects of smoking and alcohol). Later, participants had hands-on instruction in all aspects of film production, including story pitching, storyboarding, screenwriting, animation, and sound

recording. The students conducted research on H1N1 Flu ("Swine Flu") and worked directly with talented CICFF faculty to cultivate relevant, visual story ideas based on the many scientific ideas discussed.

About 250 kids were in attendance at the June 4 assembly at Prescott during which the 6 minute film received its world premiere. *The H1N1 Flu and You* is available for free streaming on the websites of Science Chicago, the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, and YouTube.

View *The H1N1 Flu and You*!
<http://www.cicff.org/content/kids-make-movies/11>

For further information, please contact Kathleen Beckman at (773) 281-9075 ext. 3037, e-mail kidsfest@facets.org, or visit www.cicff.org.

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