



Good Times, Summer in the City... Welcome!

Pediatrics has been very busy this summer and we're ready to give you all the details. Kicking off the baseball season, we headed to Yankee Stadium in April to announce the establishment of the *Yankees Universe fund*, and concluded our school year with the annual Pediatric Prom on June 7. Summer festivities included our annual Ice Cream Social, sponsored by Stop & Shop Supermarket Company and Edy's Ice Cream and our patient and staff Talent Show. In mid-July, we started sending kids off to a new summer camp. A fresh exhibit was installed in our Gallery Wall, and we wrapped up the summer showcasing our redesigned Pediatric Web site. Through it all, we've had the assistance and support of our great summer helpers. In this issue of *NEWS9* we'd like to share with you the highlights of Summer 2006, and thank all the groups and volunteers that made the last few months so special.



Yankees Universe

Pediatrics started the summer off with a home run. The New York Yankees and the Department of Pediatrics joined together to create the *Yankees Universe fund*, a program that supports pediatric patient care, research, and education through proceeds from the sale of *Yankees Universe* T-shirts. Not only did patients, their siblings, and caregivers travel to Yankee Stadium for the *Yankees Universe* and T-shirt debut, but joining them were members of the Steinbrenner family, Joe Torre, Yogi Berra, and Brian Cashman. Special thanks to Randy and Mindy Levine for making *Yankees Universe* part of our world, as well as to Stephanie and Michael for all their help and support. The Department of Pediatrics was especially happy when Johnny Damon and Bubba Crosby visited MSKCC and signed T-shirts and baseballs for pediatric patients and staff. If you haven't gotten your T-shirt yet, you can visit www.yankees.com or www.mskcc.org to place an order.



**"Baseball is
ninety percent
mental,
and the other
half is physical."**

Yogi Berra



Annual Pediatric Prom

One of the most exciting days of the year at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Department of Pediatrics is Spring Prom. Patients, family members, friends, and staff join together to celebrate in a big way, and this year was no exception. Thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of The Children's and Associates Committees of The Society of MSKCC, anticipation, glitter, cameras, gowns, music, and magic came together in a spectacular and unforgettable event.



Promingdales...

For some, the pinnacle of prom is the dress. Thank goodness then that "Promingdales" opened in the Recreation Center featuring more than 200 dresses donated by individuals and dress designers. Special thanks, again, to The Children's and Associates Committees of The Society of MSKCC for all their enthusiastic support in this effort.



"When in doubt, wear red."

Bill Blass

Tuxes...

Thanks to the tuxedo donation by The Society of MSKCC's Kids Kick In Committee, Pediatrics had the most handsome men in all of New York. Though one little boy did cry when his mom suggested a tuxedo, the guys looked dapper in their suits. For those who didn't want to wear the full ensemble, T-shirts with tux shirt-and-jacket prints sufficed.



Make-up and Polish...

Make-up can be tricky with all those different colors, but the lovely young ladies of Pediatrics navigated their way through the many options and came out looking gorgeous. Our friends at the John Barrett Salon in Bergdorf Goodman, and the cosmetics company, Nars, provided Pediatrics with the season's hottest colors and trends. The six cosmetologists set up their make-up counters and helped our patients apply *Star Violet* eye shadow and *Poco Pink* lip gloss. An added bonus was Polly Blitzler. She gave manicures to all the girls — and even to some of the boys — making prom-goers look truly polished.

Jewelry...

Diamonds don't have to be a girl's best friend when she gets to pick from some of the latest styles donated by Barbara Tollis. With a dazzling array of rings, bracelets, necklaces, and tiaras, the excitement for jewelry bubbled. But the full boil came when the bejeweled young ladies descended on prom sparkling like Tiffany windows.

The...Cafeteria?

Every other day of the year, the Cafeteria is just that — the Cafeteria. But when Pediatrics takes over for Prom, the West Dining Room is transformed into the best party space in town. With a stage for the DJ, a dance floor, midnight black curtains on all the walls, a disco ball, banquet tables groaning with food, balloons, thrones, and flashing lights, entering MSKCC's Pediatric Prom is certainly not your regular Tuesday morning visit to grab a cup of coffee and a bagel.

Music...

With beats that make you shimmy and lyrics that make you sing, the team from Party King was on fire at this year's prom. DJs Dana and Dave and the fabulous Party King dancers had so much energy that you couldn't help but want to join in. The nurses, dressed in full prom regalia, danced nonstop, and kids strutted their stuff everywhere you looked. Teenagers showed the Session Assistants the latest moves — and the doctors danced more than anyone!



*"It don't matter
WHAT you're doing,
just as long as you
LOOK GOOD
doing it."*

David Lee Roth

Kings and Queens

As at every great prom, Pediatrics crowned its kings and queens. This year more than 20 patients and staff members donned silver tiaras and kings' hats, although every participant at prom was treated like royalty. Dr. Brian Kushner and Dr. Kim Kramer, achieved the crowning glory of Staff King and Queen and smiled prettily (and handsomely) for their first pictures.



Food...

Thanks to the wonderful MSKCC Food Services Department, dinosaur chicken nuggets, pigs-in-a-blanket, ice cream, soda pop, chocolate, *more* ice cream, grilled cheese, sherbet punch, pizza bagels, and fruit made it onto this year's menu. Needless to say, finger foods prevailed. To a few of the prom-goers even ice cream was considered finger food. And with Kelley Johnston donating freshly baked, beautifully decorated cakes, everyone's hungry appetite was well satisfied.

Paparazzi...

In addition to the Party King photo booth, where kids, families, and staff could get their pictures taken, world-renowned photographer Mary Ellen Mark was taking gorgeous black-and-white photos for *People* magazine.

The June 26th issue featured a four-page spread of the event, also covered by writers Nicole Weisensee Egan and Bob Meadows. MSKCC videographers captured the event as well and created a 2006 Prom DVD that all attendees received as a keepsake.



Beat the Heat



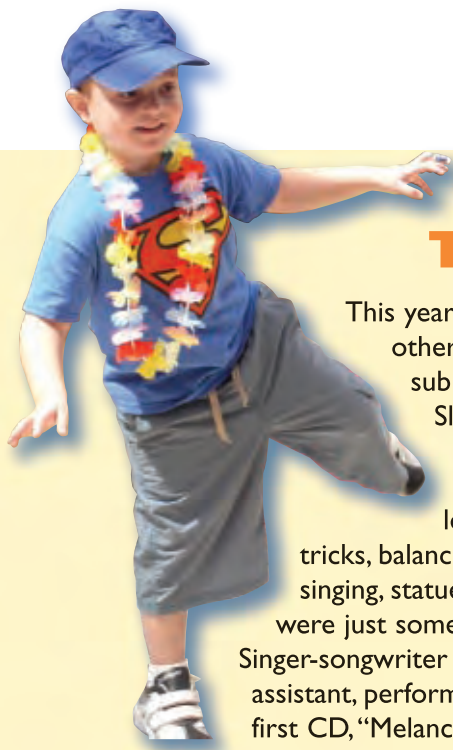
Ice Cream Social...

The Ice Cream Social is a special day for the Department of Pediatrics. For the past six years, our friends at Stop & Shop Supermarket Company have held The Triple Winner Fundraising Campaign, which is strongly supported by both Edy's Ice Cream and the New York Mets. The proceeds from the scratch-off game tickets sold at each of the Stop & Shop stores throughout New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, and parts of Connecticut, support pediatric cancer research and MSKCC's Day One program. Stop & Shop and Edy's Ice Cream sponsor the annual Ice Cream Social in the Recreation Center and this year we had many reasons to celebrate — not the least of which was the millions of dollars raised for our Department since 2001.



Summer Camp...

Summer Camp is not overlooked in the Department of Pediatrics. Each year, we send many kids to summer camps, including *Happiness Is Camping*, *Camp Simcha*, and for the first time this year, *Sunrise Day Camp*, one of the only day camps in the country for children with cancer. Whether kids are interested in belly flops or driving ranges, these camps offer something for everyone. Additionally, some of MSKCC's Department of Pediatrics doctors and nurses volunteer their time throughout the summer at the different camps. From greeting the children at the buses, to singing camp songs, both staff and kids have a blast and bring home many great stories.



Talent Show...

This year's Talent Show surely surpassed all other talent shows, if only for Dr. Cheung's sublime falsetto in "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." The talent that abounded onstage was impressive to say the least. Piano playing, magic tricks, balancing feathers on noses, singing, statues, bongos, and hopping were just some of the astounding acts. Singer-songwriter Monica Allison, a session assistant, performed "Breakaway" from her first CD, "Melancholy Girl," and the entire Neuroblastoma Team took us to the jungle with their karaoke version of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" (that's where Dr. Cheung comes in!). However these acts were not to be outdone by the summer helpers' rendition of "Eight Days A Week."



"A really great talent finds its happiness in execution."

Goethe



Talented Staff...

And MSKCC's Department of Pediatrics would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to all our Summer Helpers. Their energy and optimism were boundless and helped make Pediatrics a wonderful, vibrant place this summer. From making welcoming signs for special visitors, to singing "Happy Birthday," their good cheer will be greatly missed — and highly anticipated next year.

Thank you to
our Summer Helpers for all
your hard work and dedication.
Ian, Ilana, Micky, Brian,
Andrew and Molly

The Writers Workshop...

In each issue of NEWS9, we feature the work of writers who participate in our Writers Workshop. The forum is open to poetry, interviews, news briefs, or any other short piece of writing. Here, Justin, 16 years old, reflects on summer in New York City. And Daniel, 13 years old, captures baseball's best moments.



Untitled

By Justin S.

Plants flowered into a bliss of color as the world began to turn green.

It was finally summer, and it was all we could have dreamed.

Birds resumed their song, and the sun resumed its shine.

Suddenly, the weather and peoples' lives seemed intertwined.

I stared into the trees, I stared into the sky.

My feet struck the pavement as I participated in the daily grind.

After a walk that lasted for blocks, I reached the hospital – just in time.

I headed through the halls, with the ninth floor in mind.

The elevator took me upwards, high into the sky.

When I reached my floor, I stepped through the door,

Into the place of color, and so much more.

Into the place that almost seems like home.

Yankees vs. White Sox

By Daniel S.

The Yankees game was so much fun

I wish the game was never done

Hits here hits there

Balls flying everywhere

Clap your hands and stomp your feet

Stand up and watch as the White Sox really get beat

Jeter hit a first inning home run

And now his non-home run streak is finally done

A-Rod hit a homer and the crowd went cheering

It was so loud I thought I was going to lose my hearing

There were two or three great double plays

They awarded the great Yankee legend Willie Mays

We even got lots of things

We got these cool gold championship rings

A true fan that's what you have to be

I don't think the Yankees have a better fan than me

The Yankees won six to four

I hope they could win even more!



Fantastic Constructions...



2006 also brought the debut of our second gallery exhibit, Fantastic Constructions. More than 40 young artists from our pediatric community — including patients, their siblings, staff members' kids, and Summer Helpers — worked with the professional artists at Jerard Studio to create the impressive collection.

The starting point was a piece of paper folded four or five times so that only one

section was exposed at a time. The artists chose a subject that could be divided into parts — a person, a totem pole, or the Earth. Each artist then drew a portion of the subject onto his or her particular section of paper, folded the drawing under, and passed it on to the following artist, who then drew his or her version of the next segment. No one saw the work of the previous artist. The drawings were then put on foam core, cut out, and assembled into the extraordinary sculptures now on display.

As individuals we can do many wonderful things. But together, we can make magic. Stop by the Pediatric Day Hospital to enjoy these playful, complex, imaginative, and enchanting pieces, brilliantly conceived and created by the Department of Pediatrics family.



*"I dream
my painting,
and then I paint
my dream."*

Vincent van Gogh





We Asked The Experts...

and here are the
**Top 10 Reasons That
Summer Pediatrics
Is the BEST...**

10

"I loved wearing a pink fairy princess dress for prom."
Patient

9

"I am so grateful that MSKCC and the Yankees were able to establish the Yankees Universe fund. Every one of these kids will benefit from that relationship." Doctor

8

"Seeing the children get up before a packed audience and perform was so touching. It reminded me that we all have something to offer." Parent

7

"Chris' date for prom was his IV pole, complete with dress and earrings. Her name was Shirley. I think they had a good time together." Teen

6

"Only in Pediatrics can you eat ice cream sundaes at 9:30 in the morning." Nurse

5

"Who knew Dr. Cheung could sing so well. He should do weddings." Parent

4

"Camp was awesome. Next year I'm going to volunteer so other kids can have as great a time as I did." Teen

3

"I wish the Summer Helpers were the Fall Helpers, Winter Helpers, and Spring Helpers. I can't wait until they come back next year." Patient

2

"When I saw that Dr. Wexler matched his gold tux tie to match a patient's gold dress, I knew the Pediatric Prom was an extra-special occasion." Parent

1

"Johnny Damon is GORGEOUS!" Teen



Pediatrics Web Site

It's been almost one year in coming, and we are happy to announce that the redesign of the Pediatric Web site went live on August 7. Not only has the format changed, but almost all the pictures, text, and patient stories have been updated as well. And that's just the beginning. The next phase promises a virtual tour of the Claire Tow Pediatric Pavilion, an entire section on school reentry, and a reimagined and rebuilt section for kids and teens. Check out the updated Web site at www.mskcc.org. Click on Patient Care and enter our site by clicking on Pediatric Cancer Care.

*Read Perry,
Weldon, and
Jackson's
stories on
our redesigned
Pediatric Web Site.*



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