



Welcome... It's a Family Affair...

Pediatrics is a larger than life family. From our awesome patients to our cooler than cool nurses, from the hip support staff to the great runners on Fred's Team, from our brilliant doctors to our super families, we share many good times together. In this issue of News9, we want to introduce you to some of the fantastic people who make up the Pediatric family and tell you why eating ice cream, performing skits, and playing music is just part of family life for us!



The Child Life staff love their inner Elvis.

The Friendship Tour...

Part of the Pediatric family is Major League Baseball (MLB). They included us in their Friendship Tour as team mascots made

their way through New York City to the 2008 All Star Game at Yankee Stadium. Team mascots from the Washington Nationals, Oakland A's, Atlanta Braves, Detroit Tigers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Toronto Blue Jays, Texas Rangers, and Baltimore Orioles visited with our kids before heading to the big game. Thank you MLB!



Special Helpers...

Pediatrics is lucky to have so much help from our amazing summer volunteers and assistants. They can sing. They can dance. And most importantly, they know how to play UNO! Thank you to Mike, Sofia, Jason, Scott, Ilana, Michal, Molly, Lauren, and Kate for keeping things interesting and energized! Your enthusiasm for Pediatrics and love for our patients make you an integral part of our family.



From top left Lauren, Kate, Mike, Scott, Jason, Ilana and Sofia wore their smiles all summer long!

The Talent Show...

The Pediatric Family has plenty of talent! Dr. Cheung awed the crowds at this year's Talent Show with his karaoke skills, and the juggling duo of Jessica and Lindsey surely impressed. Topping off the acts were moving renditions of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and the "ABC's," as well as a stunning performance of building things with LEGOs!



Jason and a princess were enjoying the show.



Our summer assistants delivered an impressive performance of YMCA at this year's annual Talent Show.



Dr. Boulad serenaded families during the inpatient Talent Show.

Only Make Believe...

This past year, we welcomed the improv theater troupe Only Make Believe into the Pediatric family. Their performances in the Recreation Center begin with an outrageous tale and they need our help in organizing their strange and offbeat adventures. We're happy these characters are part of our crew and invite you to watch them at their next performance.



Fall Concerts...

Pediatrics made some very dear friends this past year thanks to Andrew Tow, a long-time supporter and enthusiast of music and Pediatrics. Arranging two private concerts for us, we welcomed members of *The Derek Trucks Band* as they performed soulful renditions of their favorite songs. Members of *The Susan Tedeschi Band* also performed for us and outdid themselves with a very hip interpretation of the *Peanuts* theme song. We applaud and thank Kofi, Todd, Yonrico, Tyler, Matt, Ron, Ted, and Andrew for sharing their love of music with us.



Members from the Derek Trucks Band and their dedicated groupies.



The Susan Tedeschi Band and our own aspiring musicians posed between musical sets.

Ice Cream Social

You know you're family when adults not only say you can eat ice cream at 10:00 in the morning, but they make your sundae and partake in the festivities with you! Thanks to our wonderful friends at Edy's Ice Cream and The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company, Pediatrics hosted its annual Ice Cream Social in December (luckily it was an unusually warm day) with lots of hot fudge and sprinkles to spare.



Dr. Meyers poses with Shemar and the staff from Edy's and Stop & Shop.

NYC Marathon...

Fred's Team

The Pediatric Family likes to exercise and what better way to stay in shape than to run the ING New York City Marathon? For those not up to the challenge, cheering on the runners and Fred's Team as they passed by on First Avenue proved just as vigorous an activity – and maybe even more fun!

This year, members of the Pediatric staff raced in the marathon, most of them running for Fred's Team, which raises money for the Aubrey Fund that supports pediatric cancer research at MSKCC. Their dedication to training and running 26.2 miles is no small feat, and we thank them — and the ever-energetic and remarkable Aubrey Adam Barr who helped establish the fund 11 years ago as a pediatric cancer survivor. Thank you to Jill Ackerman, Linda D'Andrea, Debbie Diotallevi, Christina Durney, Leah Glenn, Christine Iovino, Brian Kushner, Mike Lamothe, and Evelyn Zavala — for running to keep pediatric cancer research at the forefront of the race.

To view this issue and past issues of News9, please visit www.mskcc.org/mskcc/html/5636.cfm



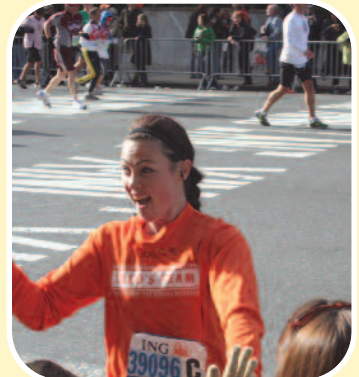
It's all smiles for Dr. Kushner, who completed his 12th NYC Marathon.



Aubrey waves to the patients and families cheering her on during the marathon.



Jill has fun during her 3rd NYC marathon.



Session Assistant Leah says hi to all her friends in front of MSKCC.



Members from Fred's Team joined the Pediatric Family the Monday after the Marathon. Though their legs were tired, their smiles continued on long after the race.

A News9 Exclusive...

Marcel van den Brink is Head of the Division of Hematologic Oncology at MSKCC and a dedicated (and fast) runner. For the past three years, he has given his hard earned NYC Marathon medal to MSKCC patients – and this year, it went to 9-year-old Aiden, who watched the race from First Avenue. What follows is an interview Katie Robinson conducted with Dr. van den Brink and Aiden in which they reflect on running, the marathon, and altruism.



Katie Robinson: How long have you been running?

Marcel van den Brink: I started in medical school, in my mid-20s. I've run a bunch of marathons, probably eight or nine NYC Marathons and have run with Fred's Team for four years. Fred's Team is very well organized and has unbelievable camaraderie.

KR: How did you manage a time of 3:17:08?

MvdB: It's not that fast. I'm just trying to run the same time as last year to avoid comments about my age from my two sons.

KR: When did you start giving your medals to patients?

MvdB: This is the third time, and the second medal that I've given to a pediatric patient. Giving my medals to patients is, without any doubt, the most precious moment on marathon day. I'm a battle-hardened oncologist, but I'm moved each time I come to the hospital to give it away. Pediatric patients are true little heroes and they deserve a Purple Heart for what they experience at such an early stage in life, every single one of them. The kids are very surprised when they see the medal around their neck, and the families are very grateful.

KR: Aiden, what did you think about getting Dr. van den Brink's medal?

Aiden: I thought it was AMAZING! Just think – he ran a whole long race; he got a medal for it; and then he just gave it away to me. It meant a lot to me because the day before the race was Halloween, and I had to stay in the hospital on inpatient and couldn't go out trick-or-treating. So getting this medal was really great because it kind of made up for the fact that I was in the hospital.

KR: Dr. van den Brink, you run for Fred's Team and you helped bring a drive for marrow and stem cell donors to MSKCC last year through DKMS (Deutsche Knochen Mark Stiftung). What are your thoughts on these major efforts to build awareness for effective cancer treatments including bone marrow and stem cell transplants?

MvdB: Many people have experienced cancer themselves or in friends and family, and they are eager to help others who are struck by this disease either by raising money or donating bone marrow. As a marrow/stem cell transplanter, I am always in awe when I see so many people go through all the trouble to raise millions of dollars, run grueling marathons, or donate their bone marrow to help other people with cancer – people they might never meet. That's pure altruism, especially becoming a bone marrow donor. Many patients do not have matched donors in their families and couldn't receive transplants were it not for the kindness of strangers.

KR: Aiden, aside from getting Dr. van den Brink's medal, what was your favorite part of the race?

Aiden: The people in costume were pretty funny to watch. I also liked cheering on Fred's Team. I wanted to stay out on First Avenue until every Fred's Team runner had gone by – but that could've been really late. I was out there for three hours cheering, but I wanted to be out there all day. It was that great!



Halloween...

It was another fun-filled Halloween for Pediatrics as our patients, families and staff dressed up and trick-or-treated throughout the hospital. Of memorable note were Dr. Gilheeney's picture-perfect costume of "The Man With The Yellow Hat" and the transformation of the Inpatient Unit into nothing less than Hogwarts Academy from the Harry Potter series. It's surprising how the Pediatric Family can morph into character so quickly and easily!



Harry Potter (a.k.a. Lindsey), Princess Leia (a.k.a. Monica), and Hermoine Granger (a.k.a. Jenna) cast a spell on a Halloween cupcake.



Thomas the Tank Engine choo-chooed his way through M9 during the Halloween Parade.



Dr. Steinherz, Dr. Shukla and Leah saw spots during Halloween.



Doctors Gilheeney, Kaplan, and Khakoo pose with a team of characters.



Thanksgiving...

We started off the holiday season with an all-too-fabulous Thanksgiving Day feast for our patients and families who were in the hospital. Thanks to the Guy M. Stewart Cancer Fund for providing both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Day meals for the MSKCC family and for making the holidays feel cozy and special.





Arts & Crafts were a hit at this year's Hanukkah celebration.



Hanukkah...

The Pediatric family loves to celebrate, and this past Hanukkah season was no different. We welcomed a magician, volunteers from Chai Lifeline, and all our patients and families for a super fun, game-filled, and deliciously sweet party.



Santa arrives in the Recreation Center to applause and much fanfare.

Christmas...

Hard to believe that Santa and his elves are part of the Pediatric family, but they are and they helped make Christmas extra great this year! Thank you, Santa, for making us a part of your long journey. And thank you also FAO Schwarz, for sharing your Toy Soldiers with us. Special thanks goes to The Society of MSKCC for coordinating the holiday bags with extra love and cheer!



We asked the experts...

and here are the top 10 reasons why the pediatric family is so great...

10

Our families love to eat! Pizza, cupcakes, ice cream, candy, cookies. It's all tasty, so you've got to be careful. – Nurse

9

Cheering on Fred's Team at the NYC Marathon continues to be one of the most inspiring, rewarding, and beautiful experiences in Pediatrics. Kudos to everyone who makes it happen! – Doctor

8

Pediatrics celebrates so many holidays. I can enjoy some of the events and traditions that my family wouldn't normally celebrate. – Teen

7

I loved the FAO Schwarz soldiers. I loved the balloons. I wanted to take them all home with me. – Patient

6

I feel like a weight is lifted from my shoulders when I walk onto the 9th floor. So many people are helping us get through this. I'm forever grateful. – Parent

5

Dr. van den Brink runs a 3:17:08 and says it's not that fast? I'm just trying to break six hours! – Staff

4

After the ice cream social, all the kids came to me wanting to learn how to spell the different flavors. C-h-o-c-o-l-a-t-e was very difficult for them, but they got it! – Teacher

3

There was stiff competition for the door decorating contest at Halloween. We're already planning next year's theme for our door. – Staff

2

The Christmas lunch was great. We ate until we couldn't eat no more. That cook's got skill! – Patient

1

We've performed in front of crowds of thousands before – but playing for Pediatrics was the most intimidating and rewarding experience yet. – Tyler, from the Susan Tedeschi Band

Writers Workshop...

In this issue of News9, Matt reflects on the importance of Rock Band and the healthy competition it promotes with his doctor, Alex Chou.



Dr. Chou and Matt gear up for another Rock Band battle.

Thursdays With Alex For Alex Chou

The sound of the machine comes on
I know I'm ready – Images flash across the screen
Mimicking the fireworks crackling in my brain
This time I know I can do it. This time will be different.
With a causal refrain he takes a seat, steadies the sticks at his side
Like a pair of six-shooters, daring me to continue
I press "Easy" and we're off (not ready for "Normal" yet)
And the whirlwind that was just in my head
Comes thundering through my fingers
Making my instrument crackle with a week's worth of
Frustrated electricity
The colors flash GREEN and YELLOW and RED and BLUE
If I can just hold on a little longer...
I can get the streak...just one more bar
I'll have Starpower...And...NOW!
The lights explode across my vision.
Am I having an out-of-body experience or
Just another seizure? Too late to find out.
The song is over and Alex smirks victoriously.
How could it be?! I was so close!
I thought I would reign supreme! Manifest Destiny!
But I can tell by the look in Alex's eye
That it's not over yet, his hands fall to his sides,
Anticipating my next move. I do not disappoint.
With a battle cry that seems to disturb
Even Alex' generally unruffable feathers,
I grab my instrument and shake it at the sky.
"Alex!" I roar, "Your song may have ended,
But the music has only just begun!"
And with that the first few notes of
"Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor ring out.



Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center

The Best Cancer Care. Anywhere.

The Department of Pediatrics gratefully acknowledges the Glenn D. Kesselhaut Children's Joy Fund for the support of our creative writing projects and publication of NEWS9.