



Special Edition...

The spring season in Pediatrics is highlighted by two very exciting events; the annual Pediatric Prom and our high school Convocation Ceremony. This issue of News9 features special moments from our 2010 events.



Dr. Kushner catches up with Megan and her mom



Dr. Meyers and Hospital Schools Principal Mary Maher present the General Excellence award to Anthony



Heading to Prom in style!



Ready to party!

Prom...

If anyone knows how to have a party, it's definitely our pediatrics community! Patients, family, friends, and staff dressed their best and brought their finest dance moves to the celebration of the season. By the middle of May, "Promingdales", our formal wear shop had opened its doors to customers. Patients and family members sifted through racks of donated gowns, men's wear, and accessories. As we made our way towards the big event, hints of glitz, glamour, and fun were found all over the 9th floor.

On Prom morning make-up artists and face painters were armed and ready with brushes to make every face shine in any fashion. Glittering eyes, shiny lips and adorned faces soon made their



Boogie Down

grand entrance and the dance moves began! Party King's DJ and dancers got everyone moving! The dance floor was a sea of smiles and laughter as people of all ages enjoyed this special occasion.

The dancing machines refueled with great food and cold, refreshing drinks. To finish up the feast, the overflowing sundae bar and huge cakes satisfied everyone's sweet tooth!



Awesome Accessories!



Make-up for every taste and style

At the peak of the party, tiaras and crowns were presented to this year's royal court. Dr. Neal Shukla and nurse practitioner Carol Rosetto were honored as 2010's staff king and queen!

It felt like the blink of an eye, and suddenly the last song was playing and tired dancers were having one last twirl on the dance floor. Huge smiles and loud laughs shine through these photos that show great memories were made!



Polka dots or stripes?



Staff King and Queen Carol Rosetto and Dr. Neal Shukla



Therese and this patient are all smiles here

Special Coverage...

This year, Cindy Hsu from WCBS-TV joined us for special coverage of Prom featured on the five o'clock evening news.



This princess is definitely ready for her debut



Dancing the morning away



Cindy Hsu of WCBS interviews patients



Which shade of lipstick matches best?

Convocation...

A different type of gown filled Pediatrics on Wednesday, June 9th during our 4th Annual Convocation ceremony and reception. Twenty-seven students and their families attended the event which recognized more than 50 current and former patients who were graduating from high school or securing their GEDs in 2010.



*Dr. Richard J. O'Reilly,
Chairman of Pediatrics*



*Dr. Robert Wittes,
Physician in Chief*

of Pediatrics, Dr. Paul Meyers, MSKCC Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Robert Wittes, spoke about the significance of this memorable day.

Following awards presented to each student, graduate Annie Zhu delivered an address on behalf of them all. Her speech was filled with optimism, insight, and humor as she spoke about hurdles she and her fellow graduates had overcome. She concluded by thanking parents, family, friends, doctors, nurses, teachers, and staff members who continue to help her and her fellow graduates along the way.

Dr. Richard J. O'Reilly, Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, provided the closing address, speaking to graduates and families about their extraordinary courage and their bright futures.



*Annie addresses the audience
with hope, humor and knowledge*



*Dr. Meyers and Hospital Schools
Principal Mary Maher present Shweta
with the Dr. Charlotte T.C. Tan Award*



Dr. Kernan congratulates Camila



Teacher Anne Marie gets the grads ready for the ceremony



Dorothy celebrates her Nursing award with family



Proud staff applaud our grads



*Parents proudly applaud the impressive
class of 2010!*

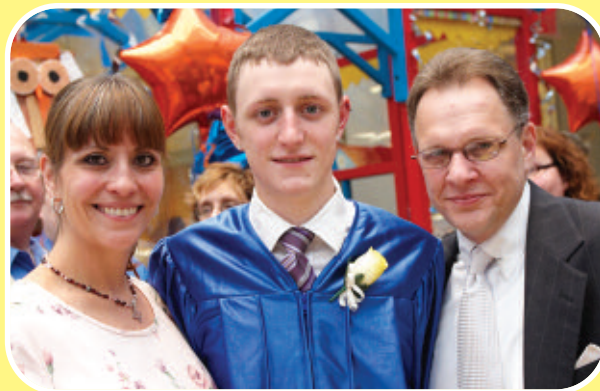
"It seems to me that each of you — at a very, very early age — has had to face questions, deal with dire extremes, and see the fracturing of dreams on a day-to-day basis. Your parents are no different. For each of you, your parents want ultimate safety. They want your health. They want you to grow up. They want you to actually live your dreams. We are so very proud to have helped you achieve this day.

We stopped to ask a few staff...

Why is graduation so important?

Dr. Meyers: It validates everything we do as healthcare providers. We work to restore young people to health and we get to see that success. It gives patients a chance to celebrate their victories and accomplishments with others who know what they went through.

Dr. Boulad: Convocation wraps the past, present, and the future into one ceremony, one morning. It shows that these amazing young people have gone through so much, yet continue to strive for the best and succeed! It is an inspiration to doctors and our staff as well as patients currently undergoing treatment.



Shelley McKay: Convocation is a remarkable celebration of courage and determination. It's a day that honors not only the patients, but the hard work of their families and medical teams.



Reflections from Our Grads...



Grads listen to Dr. O'Reilly's inspiring words

"Graduation means a new beginning and a step forward from everything I've gone through. After all the procedures and different things I think this makes me a lot more proud of where I am now. I learned that I'm a fighter and I'm always going to be a fighter. There's always a tomorrow."

Oscar

"The past and how we got here this day should not be forgotten. The MSKCC doctors and nurses, along with everyone else here, have been a part of who I am today."

Shweta



Dr. Cheung celebrates with graduating senior Kelsey

"What I've learned going through cancer is that you have to remember to smile. You'll become a happier person because of it." **Ashley**

"My happiest memory was when the medical team told me and my family that I am a survivor!" **Matthew**

"I no longer see challenges as being obstacles because I overcame the biggest obstacle of all — cancer." **Dorothy**



Child Life Coordinator, Therese catches up with 2010 graduate Hugo

"My most memorable graduation will always be the day I left MSK." **Hugo**

"As cancer patients and survivors, we've learned lessons that no one can teach us in school. We've weathered, or are still weathering, the hardest time in our lives. And we know that compared with our cancer experiences, everything else is a breeze. We've learned to smile endlessly, love unconditionally, and appreciate all the small things life has to offer. As we move on with our lives, we will keep our stories in our hearts and inspire others by example." **Annie**

Jackson's mom, Jeannie shared with us what the ceremony meant to her and her family.

"It was very special to be there and be surrounded by people who understood what we went through because they went through it with us. The speeches and thoughts and good feelings were incredible. It was wonderful."



Gabrielle reunites with Dr. Boulad

Ali's family... "It was such a special day for Alison and our family. We were thrilled to see so many of the people from our stay at MSKCC back in 1996 and 1997. We caught up with staff and families. Dr. Meyers and Ali's nurses truly hold a special place in our hearts and it's a joy to celebrate happy occasions with them. We are grateful EVERY day for the care Ali got at MSKCC."

Class of 2010...



ADINA B.
New City, NY



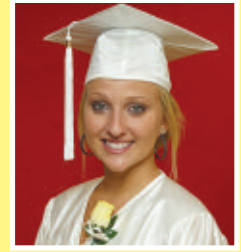
CIARA C.
Dendron, VA



RONTEAU C.
Brooklyn, NY



JOHN D.
Oyster Bay, NY



EMILY E.
Plant City, FL



HUGO F.
Saugerties, NY



OSCAR G.
Brooklyn, NY



SHWETA G.
Scotch Plains, NJ



JACKSON K.
Bayport, NY



MEGAN K.
Somerville, NJ



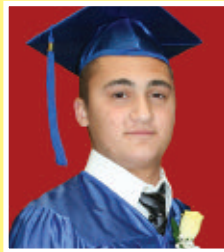
KELSEY K.
Somerville, NJ



JOY L.
New Hyde Park, NY



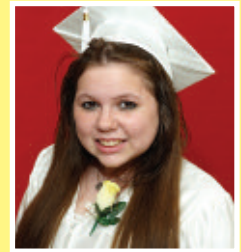
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West Nyack, NY



ANTHONY L.
Staten Island, NY



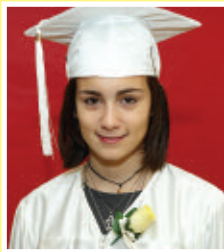
DOROTHY L.
Astoria, NY



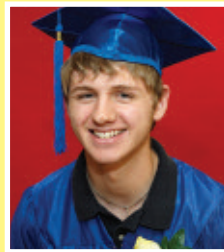
GABRIELLE M.
Old Bridge, NJ



CATHERINE M.
Hamilton, MA



CAMILA M.
Santo Domingo, DR



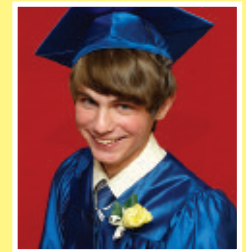
DANIEL O.
Old Brookville, NY



MATTHEW R.
Pine Bush, NY



HAYLEY R.
Oceanside, NY



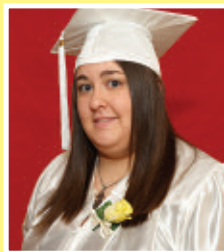
JAMES R.
Garden City, NY



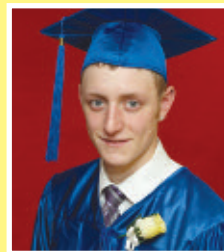
CIERRA S.
Brooklyn, NY



MARGAUX S.
Scotch Plains, NJ



ALISON S.
Port Washington, NY



JONATHAN T.
Riverhead, NY



ANNIE Z.
Flemington, NJ

Thank you...

Pediatrics extends its deepest thanks to everyone who made Prom and Convocation spectacular occasions.

Special thanks to the many individual donors and the members of The Society of MSKCC and its Children's and Associates and Kids Kick In Committees for your very special efforts and contributions.

Thank you to Polly Blitzer and her team of cosmetologists from BeautyBlitz.com, MC Dana and his crew of DJs and dancers from Party King Entertainment, and Juliana Thomas from Juliana Thomas Photography for all you do to create our magic.

We thank the New York City Department of Education for their support for our annual Convocation, the 2009–2010 MSKCC teaching staff — Anne Marie Cicciu, Joseph Robinson, Claudia Rogers and Lori Wilson — Hospital Schools Principal Mary Mahyer, and all the past and present teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, principals, tutors, and home instructors for your dedication to helping our students achieve their academic goals at every level.

Finally, a huge thank you to MSKCC's Departments of Food and Nutrition Services, Volunteers, Medical Graphics and Photography, Public Affairs, Media Services, Facilities Management, Security, and Environmental Services. Your hard work and commitment to Prom and Convocation are deeply appreciated. We couldn't do it without you!



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