

## Welcome...

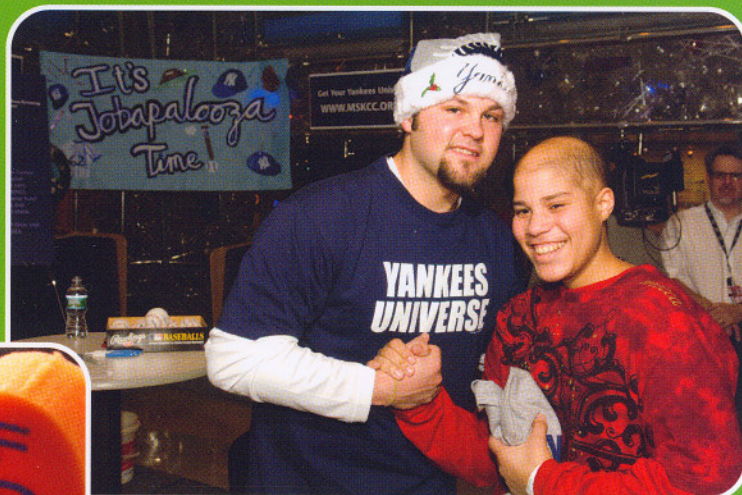
The year 2007 ended with a bang for Pediatrics. We entertained celebrities, including Joba Chamberlain from the New York Yankees. We had amazing patients who shared amazing stories. And, of course, we threw parties galore. In this issue of News9, we'd like to let you in on some of the fall and early winter highlights from 2007.



Santa gets double teamed at the Christmas party.



A lion leads the way at the Halloween parade.



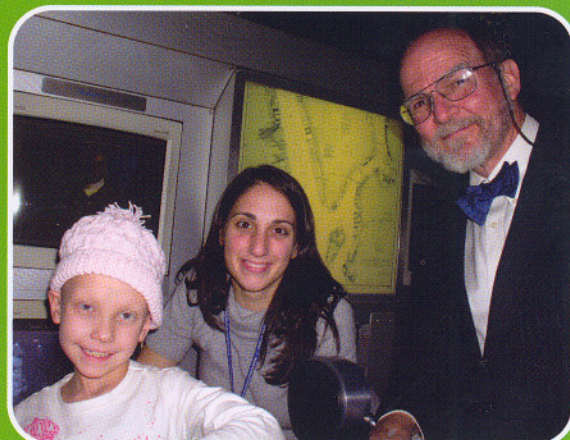
New York Yankees Joba Chamberlain and a patient are happy to support the Yankees Universe fund.



The BeeMT team made a buzz at Halloween.



A patient celebrates the New York City Marathon and Fred's Team.



Dr. Meyers, Child Life Specialist Nicole, and a patient celebrate the season at the Kristen Ann Carr holiday party.



# Celebrate...

## Halloween...

In Pediatrics, the holiday season kicks off with Halloween. The patients, families, and staff of Pediatrics made sure that every lion and superhero, witch and fairy was dressed for the day, and received enough candy to last them for weeks. Of special note this year was the warm reception the Halloween Parade received both in the Pediatric Day Hospital, on our inpatient unit, and throughout Memorial Hospital. Some kids will never go to Nuclear Medicine again without expecting chocolate!



The Child Life Specialists dressed up as Disney's greatest villains.



Doctors Kaplan and Trippett give an extra Halloween hug.



Neuroblastoma NP Esther hands out candy during the PDH parade.



A grown monkey (a.k.a. Dr. Dunkel) gets a yee haw from some cowgirls.

"Clothes make a statement. Costumes tell a story."

Mason Cooley

## Kristen Ann Carr Fund and Sony Wonder...

For the past 18 years, our friends at the Kristen Ann Carr Fund have hosted a holiday party for our older patients and their families. This year, the event was held at the Sony Wonder Lab in midtown Manhattan, and included a surprise appearance by the tween band, Naked Brothers, and a special Santa send off to every guest.

Kristen Ann Carr was treated for sarcoma at MSKCC in the early 1990s. Eager to help others and make cancer a more treatable disease, her family established the Kristen Ann Carr (KAC) Fund in 1993. KAC supports innovative research and treatments for sarcoma, educates young physicians, and improves the quality of life for patients with cancer. For more information on the foundation, please visit [www.sarcoma.com](http://www.sarcoma.com). The MSKCC Pediatric family is grateful to all our friends at Sony and the Kristen Ann Carr Fund for making the holidays extra special.





## Fred's Team and the NYC Marathon...

A record 14 Pediatrics staff members ran in this year's ING New York City Marathon. Many of them were part of Fred's Team, which raises money for the Aubrey Fund that supports pediatric cancer research at MSKCC. The adventure began in the summer with long training runs, hill workouts, ice baths, and sports drinks, and culminated on Sunday, November 4th—race day! As runners gathered in the early morning at the starting line on Staten Island, volunteers simultaneously arrived on M9 to get patients ready and excited to cheer on the runners.

The most exciting part of the race for the Pediatric staff was running by the hospital. It was a cold gray afternoon and seeing the kids and their fellow staff members—everyone in Fred's Team T-shirts and cheering them on—was an amazing experience. The enthusiasm, smiles, and shouts at mile 17 were enough to make the runners forget their aching legs and the chill in the air.

Thank you to all the Pediatric staff members who ran: Jill Ackerman, Monica Allison, Lindsey Christensen, Linda D'Andrea, Debbie Diotallevi, Christina Durney, Aileen Lin, Maura Murphy, Kim Kramer, Brian Kushner, Rachel Quatromoni, Katie Robinson, Katie Schmidt, and Aimee White. Their effort and dedication is a testament to the sport of marathon running.

Thank you also to Aubrey Adam Barr and all our friends at the Aubrey Fund who help make Fred's Team possible. Their spirit and enthusiasm for running and for Fred's Team goes well beyond the 26.2 miles of the marathon.

*"Most people run a race to see who is fastest. I run a race to see who has the most guts."*

**Steve Prefontaine**



Neuroblastoma NP Linda has no problem smiling at mile 17!



Dr. Brian Kushner cruises through his 11th NYC Marathon with ease.



M9 nurses Aileen and Katie S. give high fives to the cheering crowd.



Dr. Boulad's arms are a perfect place to catch a good glimpse of the race.



PDH nurse Aimee runs her 2nd NYC Marathon.



Support Leader, Monica, thanks the crowd for all their cheering and support.



Staff brought our inpatients to 1st Avenue to watch the race.



Long-Term Follow-Up NP Debbie is on top of the world at mile 17!



Aubrey Adam Barr gets some inspiration from a patient.



The Monday after the race, members from Fred's Team came to Pediatrics to tell the kids all about their famous run.



# Celebrate...

## Thanksgiving...

The holidays wouldn't be complete without great meals and special friends. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, patients and families staying on our inpatient units came to the Recreation Center and celebrated the holiday together.

The Guy M. Stewart Cancer Fund provided a traditional meal and patients and staff left with full bellies and full hearts.



## Hanukkah...

With magic, sweets, games, and treats, the Hanukkah party was most impressive. Thanks to Chai Lifeline—who donated the food, and provided the entertainment—Hanukkah was truly a festival of lights and lightheartedness.



"Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast."

William Shakespeare



## Christmas...

For our Christmas party, as in past years, the caroling elves rallied the crowd for Santa's big arrival. Meeting with every patient in the Pediatric Day Hospital and inpatient units, Santa brought the spirit of the season to all the girls and boys.



*On Christmas Day, patients staying on the inpatient unit share a special dinner together with their families.*





## Gavin DeGraw...

Singer-songwriter Gavin DeGraw made his second appearance in Pediatrics this past holiday season, thanks to our friends at Musicians on Call who helped arrange his visit. Gavin gave an intimate concert on his acoustic guitar for patients, families, and staff, then posed for photos and signed autographs.



## Menudo...

The all-boy band Menudo sang their way into our hearts this past December. Performing a cappella in both English and Spanish, the group charmed the crowd with a program of holiday songs. They made sure that photographs, posters, and autographs were given to every fan, and are excited to visit again soon.

## Hofstra Athletes...

Once again, the athletes from Hofstra University came to Pediatrics to spread holiday cheer. Members of the varsity men's basketball team, as well as members of the women's varsity lacrosse team shared their enthusiasm for sports with our patients.

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





# Jobapalooza...

## The New York Yankees and Pediatrics Present "Jobapalooza"

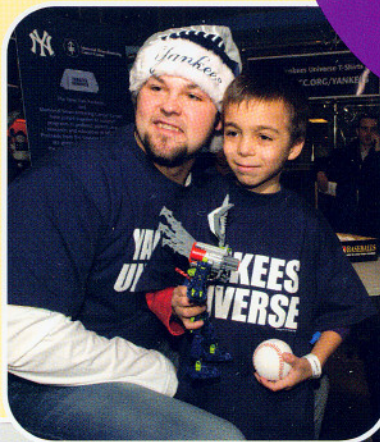
New York Yankees pitching sensation Joba Chamberlain visited Pediatrics this past season, bringing baseball cheer and baseball lore to our patients. First, he toured the inpatient unit, distributing baseballs, signing autographs, and posing for pictures. Then Joba came to the Recreation Center and spoke to the kids, saying how happy and honored he was to visit them during the holidays. Seeing the kids and imagining what they go through, both physically and mentally, was a tremendously inspiring experience, he told a reporter from the Yes Network who was covering the event. Joba concluded his visit by offering tips on how to throw a good curve ball to Yankees fan and pediatric patient Richard Canci. "Jobapalooza" was the most recent occasion we had to celebrate the *Yankees Universe fund*.



Established in 2005, the *Yankees Universe fund* is a partnership between MSKCC's Department of Pediatric and the New York Yankees. Proceeds from the sale of Yankees Universe T-shirts support programs in pediatric patient care, research, and education. To purchase your Yankees Universe T-shirt or to make a direct donation to the *Yankees Universe fund*, visit [www.yankees.com](http://www.yankees.com) or [www.mskcc.org](http://www.mskcc.org).

**"To be a part of the Yankees Universe, to be here, see what it does and who it helps is incredible."**

**Joba Chamberlain**



*Joba Chamberlain playing Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em, Robots with a patient in his room.*



*Joba learns from an expert the fine skill of arts & crafts.*



# An Interview...



## I 6-year-old Richie Canci has been a Yankees fan since the day he was born.

Diagnosed in 1998 with osteosarcoma, Richie found great strength from watching the Yankees play, and has been inspired by the team to pursue sports with a passion. So when Joba Chamberlain visited Pediatrics on a day when Richie was here for a follow-up visit Richie couldn't believe his luck. He spoke with Katie Robinson on his love for the Yankees, and how they helped him get through treatment.

**Katie:** How long have you been a Yankees fan?

**Richie:** Since the day I was born. I used to have a baseball in my crib.

**KR:** What sports do you like to play now?

**RC:** Everything. Baseball is my favorite, but I also like to play basketball, pool, sometimes a little football, and I like to bowl.

**KR:** What position do you play on your baseball team?

**RC:** I pitch and play first and second base for the Mid Island baseball league on Staten Island.

**KR:** What do you think about Joba Chamberlain?

**RC:** He's a really nice guy, on and off the field. He's talkative and funny—just a normal guy. He gave me good advice on how to throw a curve ball. He showed me where to put my fingers on the seams. I hope that when I get older I can pitch like Joba.

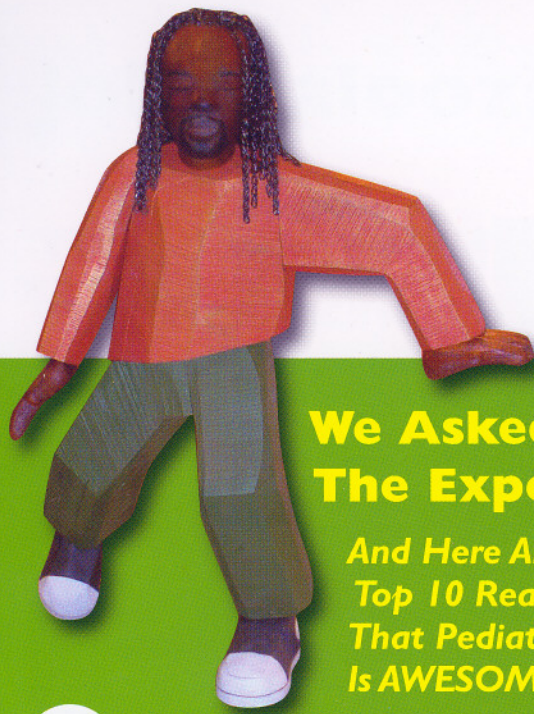
**KR:** What do you think about the Yankees being at the hospital, and visiting with the kids?

**RC:** I think it's great. When I was in the hospital on the inpatient unit I loved to watch the Yankees play. They are such a strong and powerful team. They're world-renowned. They have a rich history. Some of the players, like Joba or Mike Mussina, they never give up. They can trick the batters—that's how smart they are. For Joba to come to Pediatrics is great, because it cheers up the kids. A few years ago, thanks to the Yankees organization, I got to go to a Yankees game. I met Johnny Damon, Jason Giambi, Derek Jeter, and a lot of other people. Everyone was so nice to me. Some of the people I met at the game were in Pediatrics with Joba when he visited (M.L.—you know who you are!!!) and they remembered who I was—which was amazing. I didn't think people of such importance would remember someone like me. But that's just how the Yankees are—awesome!

**KR:** What do you think the 2008 season will be like for the Yankees?

**RC:** I hope that Joba and all the rookies win in double digits, that Chien-Ming Wang wins 20 games (he's always stuck at 19), and that the Yankees win the World Series.





## We Asked The Experts...

### And Here Are The Top 10 Reasons That Pediatrics Is AWESOME...

10

"Who knew both Cinderella and Prince Charming worked on the Leukemia Team." – Patient

9

"2008 is my year! I'm going to run the NYC Marathon with Fred's Team. I've been wanting to for so long and I feel like I couldn't get any more inspired." – Nurse

8

"The Kristen Ann Carr Fund holiday party was spectacular. I loved watching all the kids enjoy each other outside of the hospital." – Parent

7

"Joba said he could never figure out how to put my Lego Bionicle together. Maybe if there was a Baseball Bionicle, he could do that." – Patient

6

"I really liked Halloween. The kids get excited that the staff is dressed up—and the whole day is about candy and costumes, not about being sick." – Session Assistant

5

"Do you know if any of the guys from Menudo have girlfriends?!? They are super cute!" – Patient

4

"The Christmas Party is one of the best events. The kids get gifts; they see Santa—what kid wouldn't love it?" – Nurse

3

"The turkey I had at Thanksgiving in the hospital was better than my mom's—so I didn't really mind being an inpatient for the day." – Teen

2

"I confess: The holidays were a spectacular blur. Peds put on an impressive show of talent, parties, good food, and holiday cheer. I am so grateful to them." – Parent

1

"The Yankees Universe fund continues to be an inspiration to all of us. We can see the daily benefits in our research, patient care programs and ultimately, in the daily lives of our patients." – Dr. Richard J. O'Reilly

## The Writer's Workshop

In this issue of News9, we include journal entries by 10-year-old Sarah Heyne who writes about her experience with cancer.



### January

At the end of January I was starting to notice that I couldn't move my neck that well. So we went to my pediatrician and she gave me some medicine, but it just made me sleepy. Later, she thought that I had this really bad virus called mononucleosis. So she gave me more medicine, but it never helped.

### Beginning of May

It turned out that I had to get surgery. On May 4th, I got tubes in my ears. It took about three hours to get them in. Then when I woke up I had a sore throat. I was also really, really tired. But when I was half awake, my parents and my sister came in. My sister (Kelsey) gave me a really special gift that I loved. It was a stuffed animal that was a dog. I named it Sunshine, Sunny for short. I gave it a collar and leash. Wherever I went, I would always take her with me. While I was having surgery they took a little piece out from my throat to see what was wrong with my neck. That's when they confirmed that I had CANCER ☹️! The number one place to take care of my cancer is Memorial Sloan-Kettering, so I went there. And the only thing that can cure the cancer was this medicine called CHEMO! I started taking the chemo and found out that it makes you feel sick. You get a million mouth sores and you get bad stomach aches. Even sometimes you might throw up.

### Beginning of June

In the beginning of June I got the second round of chemo. The cancer that I have is very rare. Each different kind of cancer has different rounds of chemo. I have six rounds. But when I had the second round of chemo it wasn't as bad as the first round. This time, I was ready so I didn't have a really bad sore throat and not a lot of mouth sores. Then I found out that the cancer went down 85-90%!!! I was happy. I was like WOW!

**My Story Continues, so stay tuned to another issue of News9...**



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