

The Community Counts

A monthly newsletter for Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant patients, families and supporters



The volunteer-based Family Support Program is dedicated to caring for, serving, and lightening the burden of the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Community through a comprehensive array of services and resources.

Inside this issue:

New Kids on the Block	2
Happenings over the Past Month	2
Back to School	3
New Super Steppers	3
Massage Therapy	4
Winners Circle	4



Thanks to Bryan's new hat, he now has orange hair



Mary had fun making her hat

Krazy Hat Day!

Patients, families, and staff are always coming up with new ideas to bring fun and cheer to 5200. Bryan (age 12) came up with the idea for the unit to have Krazy Hat Day. With the help of nurses and staff, Krazy Hat Day became one of the highlights of Bryan's time on 5200. Everyone was extremely creative in designing their crazy hat. Some of the hats were even made out of medical supplies. Mary (age 10) decided that she wanted to make Dr. Parikh a "bug hat" and made him wear it for the afternoon. (see photo) Krazy Hat Day was a fun and festive day for all! A big thank you goes out to Bryan for the great idea.



Saul and Dylan made big colorful hats



Ariella shows off her one of a kind hat



From the left: All the nurses got a little crazy with their hats, Dr. Parikh gets in on the fun, Amanda and her Mom show off their hats

Bear Necessities



The Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation's Board of Directors has granted the Duke PBMT Family Support Program \$5000.00 This money will go into the Program's Racing Heroes Fund and will be used to buy gas, food and Target gift cards. The Duke PBMT shares the mission of Bear Necessities, which is to eliminate pediatric cancer and to provide hope and support to those who are touched by it. We are indebted to Bear Necessities for their continued support of Duke PBMT families.

New Kids on the Block

“New Kids on the Block” features the patients on the 5200 unit who were admitted in the past month. It is our way to honor them and help the other families get to know them.



*Angel, age 1 month
Glen Cove, NY*



*Dylan, age 13
Durham, NC*



*Saul, age 13
Naples, FL*



*Jacob, age 20
Bonita Springs, FL*



*Marquise, age 12
Greensboro, NC*

Happenings over the Past Month

This month has brought a lot of very special visitors to the PBMT unit. Mr. and Mrs. Claus made a long trip down from the North Pole to provide Christmas in July for PBMT patients. With them they brought an array gifts for everyone. Another visitor to the PBMT unit came all the way from Disney World in Florida. Patients could hardly control their excitement when they saw Mickey Mouse outside of their room. Thank you to everyone who made these very special visits possible.



*Santa and Mrs. Claus
took some time from
their summer vacation
to visit 5200*



*Adam is now
taking calls on
his new phone*



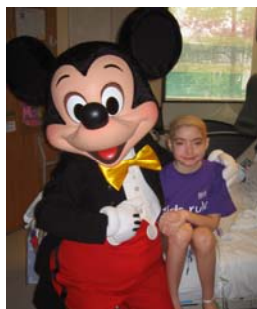
*Bryan is all smiles
with his new gifts*



*Elmer and his Mom
pose with Santa*



*Jacob enjoys
his visitor*



*Mary and Mickey
smile for the camera*



*Angel and his Mom
pose with Mickey*



*David and Mickey
give a thumbs up*

Back to School

When your child recovers sufficiently to return home, school attendance will become important. Your doctor should fill out a medical referral for "homebound services." Since your child's immune system will not be strong enough for him/her to attend school right away, the school system is required by law to provide a homebound teacher. This teacher will meet with your child at your home and act as an intermediary between the school and your child. The teacher will collect assignments, teach your child appropriate material and return assignments to school.



Be sure to meet with the school guidance counselor to learn about the support services and assistance your school can provide. If your child has experienced learning changes as a result of disease or treatment, special education may be needed. One area of eligibility under special education is "Other Health Impaired." This process is started by filling out a Referral for Special Education Services and will involve testing to determine your child's level of cognitive functioning and achievement.

If your child does not require the services of the special educator, but would benefit from other services, you should work with the guidance counselor to create a 504 Plan designed to help your child compensate for health-related difficulties. It may include reduced assignments, waiving penalties for absences, shortened school day, extended time getting to classes, etc. Acting as a strong advocate for your child will contribute to a successful school re-entry.

---Lexie Simpson, Duke hospital school teacher

Steps to Recovery

The patients on the PBMT unit have been getting a lot of exercise lately. Patients have been earning a record amount feet by walking the halls, riding bikes, and even walking on a treadmill. This month we are happy to announce that three young men have "walked" their way in to the Super Stepper Club. Patients can earn their way in to this elite club by earning more than 50 feet.

Our three newest Supper Steppers are Dylan who has earned 270 feet, a total of 1350 laps. Brayden earned 50 feet, a total of 250 laps. Bryan earned 101 feet, a total of 505 laps or 1,515 minutes on the stationary bike. Bryan's favorite way to earn feet is riding the stationary bike while his Mom walks on the treadmill.

All patients work very hard to earn each of their feet. Great job to all of our courageous and determined walkers! Keep the great work. We are very proud of you!



Bryan



Dylan



Brayden

Massage back on 5200

We are pleased to announce the return of the Massage Therapy program for parents and caregivers! Started over two years ago, we have been able to offer six 20 minute massages each week by a licensed massage therapist. There has been a bit of a lapse in the program over the summer as we sought out a new massage therapist, and are excited to share that we didn't just find one, we found two! Norma Ferrell and Marie Lloyd will likely become some of the most sought-after people on our unit as they provide stress relief and relaxation to caregivers. Given their prior experiences, both come with keen awareness of the challenges faced on our unit. Massage Therapy will be held on alternating Tuesdays and Fridays beginning in September. Welcome Norma and Marie!



Wish List

We are in need of the following items:

- * Gift cards: Wal-Mart, Food Lion, and BP gas cards
- * We have specific toys, DVD's, and games listed on our [Target.com](https://www.target.com) Wish List. Enter "Duke PBMT" in the "find a wish list" search engine and go from there.

Many thanks for your support!!

Winner's Circle

We are very grateful to all of the people who help support PBMT families through contributing their time, energy, and resources. We would like to thank:

- * Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation for their grant to the Racing Heroes Fund for gas cards, grocery cards, and Target cards
- * The Evanosky Foundation for their donation of a laptop
- * Project Linus at Summit Church for their donation of quilts
- * Phyllis Strawn for her donation of pillowcases
- * The family of Julia Gray for their donation of a stroller
- * The family of Emily Holum for their donation of toys and games
- * The family of Alex Schwab for their donation of toiletry items for the "In Case you Forgot Basket"
- * Douglas Greenlaw for his donation in memory of Ally Brennan
- * Virginia Luken for her donation in memory of Marlana Hodges
- * Mr. & Mrs. William Lee for their donation in memory of Marlana Hodges
- * Wiley & Wilson for their donation in memory of Marlana Hodges
- * Timothy & Elizabeth Laughlin for their donation in memory of Marlana Hodges
- * John and Pam Compher for their donation in memory of Marlana Hodges
- * Floyd T. Binns Middle School for their donation in memory of Josh Thomas
- * Meghana Nayak for her donation in memory of Narali Naik
- * Chris Sundberg for her donation
- * Steve Kearney for his donation

For those who contributed to our Community Meals program for the month of August:

Apex United Methodist Church
Little Red Foundation
Macedonia Baptist Church

St Luke's Episcopal Church
Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church
West Raleigh Exchange Club

If we have inadvertently left you off our Winner's Circle, please let us know!

The Community Counts is a monthly newsletter produced by the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Family Support Program, distributed free to patients, their families, volunteers, and staff.

Contributors: Jane Schroeder

Lindsey Kearns

Rachel Tripp

Caroline Sweezy

Lexie Simpson

Duke PBMT Family Support Program

DUMC Box 3350

2400 Pratt St. Suite 1400

Durham, North Carolina 27710

Phone: (919) 668-1128

E-Mail: schro005@mc.duke.edu

Additional and archived newsletters may be downloaded from our web site:

www.cancer.duke.edu/PBMT/support/family.asp

Printed by Millennium Print Group

Raleigh, NC (919) 852-1117

www.mprintgroup.com

