



# McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter

## JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019

### John Kennelly Memorial Feis 2019

The McKeever School brought 55 dancers to the Kennelly Feis on January 20th this year. This was to date the most dancers we have ever brought to a Feis! At one point all three beginner stages were entirely covered in the energetic dancing of McKeever kids donning their red and black team costumes. There were so many successes that day it is impossible to note them all. Bottom line we saw you all get up their with determination, confidence and energy which truly showed. A huge congrats to first time competitors Shannon W, McKenna B, Abigail N, Alannah S, Danny T, Stacy M, Jennifer N, Lena M, Chiara K, Eleni K, Dahlia G, Emma D, Karuna E. and Rose L. Additionally to McKeever dancer Isa P. Who secured her third and final first place as a Preliminary Champion and now holds the prestigious title of Open Champion. With a perfect score Isa is now in the top 9% of dancers who make it to that level. Grit and handwork got you there Isa and we could not be prouder of you. As one the original McKeever students ever this success meant a lot to Miss McKeever. Our young champion Amy D. Earned a 2nd place in her Preliminary competition which was her best to date. New champion Olive K, killed it on her first ever time as a champ and even got a top 3 placement from one of the judges. Additional congrats to our dancer Audrey P. who earned a 4th and 3rd in Prelim Champ out in Arizona that same day. Thank you all for representing the school with poise, sportsmanship and your best efforts.



# NAFC BELT Comes to Sacramento

For the first time in recent memory (possibly ever?) the NAFC Belt and Championships came to Sacramento. This event took place the day before the Kennelly Feis! The NAFC is the North American Feis Commission, which is connected to CLRG but governs competition here in North America. In order to compete at the prestigious Belt a dancer must have earned a first place in Open Championships at a Feis during that previous year. McKeever Champion Morgan Martin earned the chance to compete at this belt.

In her competition were not one but two World Champions! This National competition was such an honor to compete in and Morgan made us so proud. In addition to the Belt we had Morgan and Moriah Payne compete in the individual Open Champion step down the line competitions. Both earning third in the traditional set category. Our little Under 8 Four Hand Team with Sophia T, Mollyann K, Ella R and Juna A, competed in the Under 11 age group for the Peter J. Smith Memorial Ceili Competition. Lets just say they did such an amazing job for being obviously so young and cute that everyone in the rooms jaw dropped. Many compliments were paid their way by very established teachers who were watching the competition. They earned medals with pictures of Peter J. Smith, a founding father of dance in North America. He was actually the teacher of Jen and Allison Nagle who taught Miss Nicole and Miss Natalie in New Jersey!! So it was truly an honor to have that all come full circle.



Above is Miss McKeever Competing in the same competition almost 20 years ago!

## Rocking IRISHPALOOZA 2019!



This was our third time dancing at Irishpalooza which took place in Harlows on \_\_\_\_\_. A troupe of strong McKeever dancers once again wowed audience members and danced to the live music by Stepping Stone. This event which unites local Irish bands is unique to Sacramento and growing in popularity each year. We are so privileged to be asked to perform each year, getting constant shout outs from the bands throughout the night. A unique aspect of this year's show was having out dancing boards to perform hardshoe on, which really impressed the audience. Thank you to all who performed and congrats to dancer Erica J. on her first performance as an Irish Dancer!



# On The News.... TWICE IN A MONTH

Why is Sacramento one of the best cities ever? In my opinion its just so connected and supportive of the Arts. This was evident this month as the McKeever School was asked not once but twice to be on the News! First at the start of the month we had Fox40 Reporter Mae Faiai visit our studio and try out our new Irish Dance Aerobics Class. This class was inspired by ReelRobics created by former Riverdancer Christina Woods in Belfast. Using basic Irish Dance movement we have a highly aerobic class set to lively Irish Music and no need to memorize choreography. Thank you to our three Adult dancers who work up at the crack of dawn to help out with the segment (Sue M, Jen B, and Sherry T. )

Later in the month we got to appear on Studio40 and do a fun segment promoting all our exciting upcoming events! Dancers Morgan M, Millie K, Aurora L, Noah L, Olive K, Ruby K and Amy D. all performed LIVE and were absolute professionals! Thank you for helping promote the school!



## Irish Dance Magazine

Check out our three McKeever dancers Estella G, Juna A. and Finola A. Who made it into Irish Dancing Magazine this month! I might be a little biased but I think you three were the cutest on the that spread by a landslide.

**DID YOU KNOW?** - We now have a special McKeever Parent Page with anything and everything you need to know. No need to search through emails it will most likely be in that page. Check it out on [McKeeverDance.com](http://McKeeverDance.com) and use the current door code as the password!

