

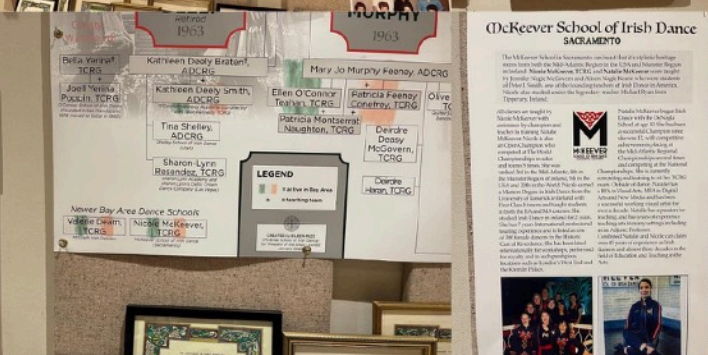
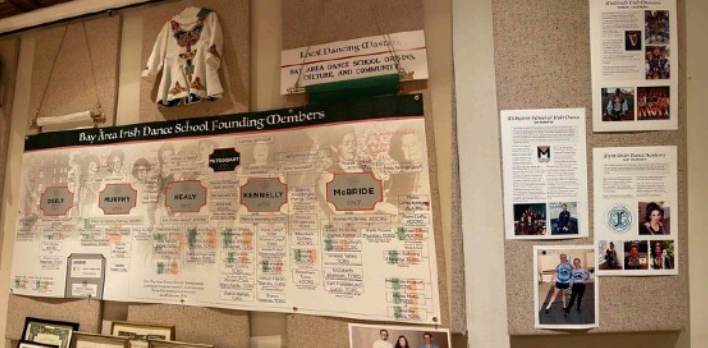


McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter

January - April 2022

Irish Dance - Past and Present

January brought us two exciting Irish Dance events! The beautiful and inspiring animated movie of Riverdance on Netflix and an amazing exhibit on Irish dance history in San Francisco at the United Irish cultural Center called "Keeper of the Steps". The McKeever School was honored to have a place among esteemed colleagues and founders at this exhibit, even though we are a newer part of this Northern California community. For Miss McKeever the animated movie brought back so many memories of being on stage with friends all over the World. The music in the show just never gets old! Many of her fellow cast-mates including Padraic Moyles, Jason O'Neill, Maggie Darlington and Rocio Montoya were part of the cast that danced for the animators. The cartoon characters are literally doing steps from the show!



Kennelly Feis in San Francisco

Congrats to our McKeever dancers who competed at the John Kennelly Memorial Feis at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco the weekend of January 15th. Everyone walked away with a personal victory. After having our Irishpalooza performance and the local Riverdance tour canceled just the week before it was so wonderful to have this event.

Thanks for making your team look so strong Abbey, Abigail, Allie, Brooklyn, Eliana, Grace, Finola, Lena Lucy, McKenna, Maggie and champs Juna, Ruby, Devin and Hannah. Hannah and Juna were so strong competing for the second time as preliminary champions. Ruby Kincaid earned an outstanding 3rd Place Devin Powell an incredible 5th Place and Hannah Dunbar her first Champion placement coming in 6th!



February Feis in San Francisco

The Fog City Feis in San Francisco hosted by the Whelan Academy took place February 19th and 20th. Great job to champs Devin, Ruby, and Olive! Huge congrats to dancers Mia, Eliana, June, Quinn, Grace, Abigail, Allie M, McKenna, Allie S, Abbey, Christine, Guin, Lucy, Lena, Erica M. and Theresa! So many of you making great strides towards your goals as champions and beyond! Keep up the great work!



Mark S. Allen Comes to the McKeever Studio

To kick off Saint Patrick's Day we were lucky enough to have ABC 10 News Reporter Mark S. Allen visit the studio on March 16th. Last year we had to film outdoors still so it was so nice to have him in our studio space. Dancers and parents were so great getting notice of this opportunity the day before and being so eager to help out on a school day! We created a routine an hour before he arrived and it went so smoothly. It was extra exciting to see Mark in action setting up shots and conducting the interview! The full video is linked on the front page of our website if you haven't seen it yet!



Dancing in Pubs and Country Clubs

Thank you to all the dancers who performed at our public events the week of Saint Patrick's Day! Miss Nicole and Miss Natalie had fun performing at the Rancho Murieta County club with band Celtic Crossing, and champions Olive and Ruby brought down the house while busking at a local pub 19 handles! Huge shout out to the cast of dancers who performed at 36 handles in El Dorado Hills on the night of Saint Patrick's Day. We danced on a hill, with a grate and the crowd was enormous! Unfortunately the music from another band and a pipe band started playing at the tail end of our performance. So we waved to the crowd and bid our adieu. When we learned our performance at a winery was cancelled due to the weather March 18th we were so grateful to Limelight Restaurant in East Sacramento for welcoming us in and letting us put on a big show for family and friends in a fun setting! Thank you for everyone who performed and supported us! Extra shout out goes to Champion Dahlia G. Who performed in every show, the parade the news, nursing homes... she danced it all giving it her all each time and making the crowds go wild! Thank you Dahlia!



A Seasonal Highlight; Performing for the Elderly

There is no doubt about it, performing for our senior citizen community is an absolute highlight of this Saint Patrick's Day Season. We had 5 shows in one week and it seriously brought us so much joy. The residents of each location were just such great audience members cheering us on and giving us such encouragement. At one community there was a woman (Dolores MacDonald) in the audience that raised her hand and mentioned she danced as a young girl with Anne Healy in San Francisco most likely in the 1930's and 1940's. I told her that school still exists and now Anne Healy's daughter and granddaughter run the school. When we got up to dance Saint Patrick's Day at the end of the show I mentioned to her she might recognize this traditional and very historical choreography. She did! It brought tears to her eyes and she said "I used to know this dance! I just can't believe I was able to dance like this when I was so young!"



A Dance You Can't Forget!



CLARA shared a fun story about it's residencies at Hollywood Park Elementary School that really touched us!

"We've been providing in-class arts programming at Hollywood Park since 2017 -- 100% of the kids get programs from CLARA tenants each year. Today's class was the start of the 5th grade ukulele unit (if you are doing the math, these kids were in 1st grade in our first year on campus).

The kids saw our education director, Emili, and were excited: "Hey, it's the Samba lady!" "No, it's the Irish Dance lady!" "We still do that dance you taught us!" (they were mistaking her for Nicole McKeever, from The McKeever School of Irish Dance. Emili was impressed that the kids could still do a jig they'd learned in third grade, and said as much to the teacher, who responded, "Oh, they do that dance every day at recess. Look!" And here, we share with you the video the teacher showed Emili, captured at recess yesterday: an Irish Jig Dance Line. We love that these kids continue to carry the lessons of these classes forward year over year."

Former third grade students of Miss McKeever's CLARA Arts Outreach Program still can dance the first step of the jig. This video showed kids laughing and dancing together even years after we taught them this dance. That is what it is all about!

Back in the Halls! Bright Times Ahead!

As we fully come back into being in the building after these past two difficult years I wanted to bring classes together and brighten the halls.

McKeever Dancers were asked to write what they love about Irish Dance on a heart or a shamrock. It turned into such an adorable display of all the different ages of our students and all the different reasons Irish Dance really brings their lives joy! Thank you to everyone who handed theirs in!



McKeever Reno Crew Represents

Congrats to our four dancers from Reno who performed at the Sons and Daughters of Erin Saint Patricks Day Dinner on March 5th! Morgan Martin, Dominic Martin, Lina R. And Murrone P. all travel to our studio from Reno! They had a rare chance to dance locally together in their own town and we were so happy for them.

A big thank you to to Power School and the McNulty School of Irish Dance for hosting grade exams in March in LA. Dancers Morgan Martin got A's on exams 9, 10 and Dominic Martin A's on 7, 8. This will get them even closer to being able to sit their TCRG examinations and one day be exceptional and accredited Irish Dance teachers!



A Historical World Championships

WATCH THE IRISH DANCE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM HOME! For the first time (EVER) in 50 years you can watch the Irish Dance World Championships without having to be there in person. This is a historical moment because it means dancers and teachers all over the world can study and be inspired by the top standard of our sport without having to travel to Belfast. If Irish dance is your thing like it is mine then being able to watch the World's is going to be amazing! The event is taking place Sunday, 10th April to Sunday, 17th, 2022 so you will be able to watch online during those dates! Pre-order today at www.feistv.com



Congrats to our talented champion and teacher in training Moriah Payne who received her Grade 12 exam certificate this week and now holds a Diploma of Irish Dance! Keep up the great work Moriah @moriahdances



Parade Makes a Triumphant Return!

On March 12th the McKeever School marched in its 7th Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Old Sacramento. After two years with no parades this was a triumphant return to a life we used to know. So many dancers joining us during these past two years, so many of you still here since our first parade in 2014! It was just so fun to be together on a beautiful day, meet new friends, dance in the streets and wave at a very happy crowd. Shout out to the Shamrock Club of Sacramento who always invites us to march behind them 3rd in the parade line behind the Fire Department! This was our biggest group yet with over 70 dancers taking part!



More Parade Fun!



A sea of of dancing green! Thank you dancers for making it such a beautiful day! We can't wait for the parade next year!



An Exciting Weekend in San Francisco

Great job to our dancers at the City by the Bay Feis! What beautiful dancing from all of you! The McKeever team competed Saturday April 2nd and Sunday April 1st at the Cathedral of Saint Mary's in San Francisco. Highlights included Champs Ruby 4th and 6th Prelim, Sophia 3rd Open, and Millie 4th Prelim!! Dancers and Olive, Devin, Savannah, Dahlia McKenna, Allie, Lucy, Lena and Erica M. making our school look good! We welcome dancers Guin O. And Chloe M. To train as pre-champions in the Champion class and we welcome Abbey G to start competing as a Champion!! Outstanding, we are so excited for you guys!

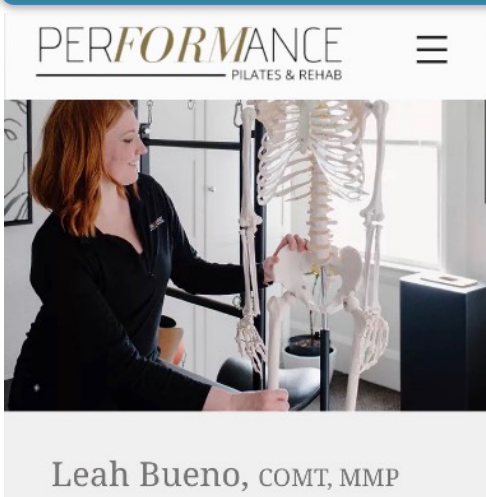


Meet Our McKeever Gear Designer!

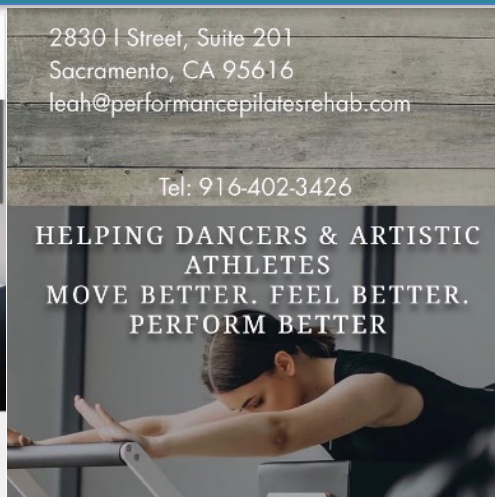


A huge thank you to Brittany Brown who hand makes all our beautiful McKeever gear! She did an outstanding job this year and we are so thankful for all her hard work. She is on Facebook at [BMC.McKeever Gear](https://www.facebook.com/BMC.McKeeverGear) She takes custom orders by contacting her at beemichaecrafts@hotmail.com

Injury Prevention Workshop



Leah Bueno, COMT, MMP



Thank you so much Leah Bueno @thepilatesdancer from @performancepilatesrehab for coming to our studio on April 3rd for a free absolutely amazing workshop!! She is such an amazing resource for injury prevention and we learned so much tonight! Check her out and follow her Instagram for great tips! Her card is in the hallway at CLARA too.

New Team Gear

NEW ONLINE SCHOOL STORE
<https://malleyteam.com/collections/mckeever-school-of-irish-dance>



O'Malley Sport has created a look based on our logo and celtic knotwork and we now have a store! We are excited that these items are more affordable than what we have had previously.

They can leave our site open until the 15th of April for delivery by the 27th of May. This will be helpful for anyone wanting costumes for the Lucky 7's feis in June or team gear for Nationals in July. We then anticipate re-opening the store in August to get ready for all our fall events.

They told me "Our sizes are slim fitting, so we do advise to always use the size guides and if you are inbetween sizes to go up"

Here is our store!! We are so excited!

<https://malleyteam.com/col.../mckeever-school-of-irish-dance>