



# McKEEVER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016 FEBRUARY 2016

## New Year Means Big Things to Come!

A wonderful group of dancers came out to help ring in the New Year, "Irish Time" at Brownie's Lounge in Land Park. Tartan Hearts School of Highland Dance also brought their students and our dancer Kiki M. made it on the local news doing a lift!



Dancers back row from left; Jen B., Emma S., Debbie R., Tara R., Jess B., Nicole M., Juliana G., Liz K., Front Row; Kiki M., Natalie.

## Working Hard Over the Break Pays Off!



Over twenty dancers completed the two week Christmas Challenge and handed in their charts showing how they had trained over the break! They were rewarded by being eligible for a gift drawing which had exciting gift cards and prizes to win!



## Welcome to Open Champion Status!

Champion Dancer Laura G. has solidified her third and final first place win as a Preliminary Champion! She now has the distinction of competing as an Open Champion, the highest level in competition. Her sights are set this Summer on Orlando, Florida for the North American Championships, for which she is now eligible to compete in! This is the first but not final McKeever dancer to make that jump from Preliminary to Open. It took a lot of dedication and we are proud of you Laura!



# John Kennelly Memorial Feis in Sacramento!



We had 23 McKeever School dancers registered for the John Kennelly Memorial Feis in Sacramento. It was held at the Red Lion Inn on January 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the third year McKeever Dancers have competed at this conveniently local competition put on by the Kennelly School. Our first year, we had only three dancers entered! For four of our dancers, Maya T. , Colin R., Sarah B., and Liz K., this was their first Feis as a McKeever Dancer! Everyone is representing the school so well keep up the good work! Special thanks to the families who dropped by the feis to support their classmates, as well as Natalie Goldman and Kerry Lawlor who helped Miss McKeever catch all of her dancers in action on such a busy day!



**Next Competition, San Francisco  
Here We Come!**

**Feis San Francisco**  
**Date - February 13th-14th 2016**  
**Venue - St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco**  
**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRY is February, 1<sup>st</sup>**  
For more info go to [Feisinfo.com](http://Feisinfo.com)

The Kennelly Feis was also the first Preliminary Championship competition for our dancer Isa P. This is a huge occasion and she is commended for her hard work and progress. Keep it up Isa!



## Studio Construction Update!

As you already know we are eagerly anticipating our new studio space. Construction is in full swing and going really well! The anticipated date for the building to receive it's certificate of occupancy is mid February. Once this happens and our tenant improvements are completed, we also have to receive our studio's certificate of occupancy, then we can start running classes in the space. This process is very complicated and the hope is to move in at best late February start of March. Once we move in our new schedule will take effect and we will hold a big Open House event! The Raley Studios will also hold a Grand Opening Celebration, the date for the Studios Grand Opening has not yet been decided but is being planned for either late March or the start of April. Check out our parent Facebook page for the latest photos of our construction!



## GoFundMe Thank You!

**Thank you to all the families who have already contributed generously to the GoFundMe account to help raise funds to send our dancer Moriah Payne to the World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. You have helped raise \$700!! To share or contribute to the fundraiser please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/dzhtnvg>**

**Please also find a heartfelt thank you from Moriah below.**

*Hello Everyone!*

*I just wanted to take time to thank everyone who has been so generous by donating to the fundraiser for my journey to Scotland. I started Irish dancing when I was 4 years old. About 14 years later with the help of our awesome dance teacher, Nicole, my dream of qualifying for the World Championships has finally come true. As you might assume, this is the most important accomplishment of my dancing career and has had a tremendous impact on me. I was very touched to see that so many of you cared enough to donate and, for this reason, I wanted to convey my extreme gratitude. When I first started with McKeever, one of the first things that surprised me was how kind everyone was and how welcoming you all were. In all of my dancing years, I have never loved a studio as much as this one because of the wonderful people and the fantastic environment that Nicole and the rest of you have managed to maintain. Truthfully, all of your support has meant the world to me. Once again, Thank you so much and I wish you all success in your dancing!*

*- Moriah*

## Dancer Reaches Year Long Goal!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Electronic Sign Up Sheets will be sent out for the following events. Please Mark dates down until that time.

The next T-Shirt order should be coming out soon. This will include Saint Patrick's Day shirts for the parade like last year, McKeever sports bags, and a special limited edition studio opening shirt with a new logo design!

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10am  
United Cerebral Palsy  
Performance

Saturday March 12 – 1pm  
Old Sacramento Saint Patrick's  
Day Parade

March 12 – Performance at the  
Limelight, East Sacramento. Time  
to be announced.

March 12 – 8pm  
Irish Hooley at the Harris Center,  
Folsom. Starring Miss McKeever  
and Moriah Payne

One year ago, dancer Juliana G. sat in the audience of her middle school's multicultural performance and wondered if her family's Irish heritage could be represented in a dance form like her other classmate's cultures had been that day. She did some research and a week or two later was in her first Irish Dance class at the McKeever School. She had a clear goal, to be good enough at Irish Dance to perform in front of her entire school in the span of a year! Juliana worked hard in class and at home to master and perfect her beginner material. Juliana also competed in two competitions bringing home medals, as well as performing in front of crowds at local festivals, the CA State Fair and Global Winter Wonderland. On January 29<sup>th</sup> Juliana and Miss McKeever took the stage together for three small performances in front of her school. Her flawless and energetic performance was received by her classmates with loud and excited cheers that day. Congrats to Juliana for setting a goal and achieving it with great success! Many exciting things are clearly in your future!





# World Championships Fundraiser! Order Form

Thank you to Sarah Hawkins, a parent at the McKeever School of Irish Dance and an amazing artist who is donating her talents to help the school raise funds for our first dancer to compete at the World Irish Dancing Championships. 25% of the sales from these products will be given to dancer Moriah and her family to help fund their trip to Glasgow, Scotland in March of 2016. Please pass this on to co-workers, friends and family. All of these items are carefully and skillfully decorated with Sarah's beautiful woodworking talents.

To order please describe the item and design you wish to purchase and email

Sarah at

[shawkins81@gmail.com](mailto:shawkins81@gmail.com)

Customization of the pieces can be discussed. Cash and Personal Check are accepted forms of payment.

Keepsake Boxes  
\$40  
Necklaces  
\$15

