



# McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter JUNE - JULY 2019

## Lucky Sevens Feis - 5th Year for McKeever School



Some of the highlights of the Lucky Sevens Feis that happened in San Jose the first weekend in June. This is our fifth year attending the event as a school. More on the next page...



# Lucky Sevens Feis Continued

McKeever dancers had a great time competing in San Jose at the Lucky 7's Silicon Valley Feis on June 1st and 2nd. Congratulations to our many hardworking grade level dancers and adults who made us proud! Dancer Kailey G. made a beautiful debut in her first Preliminary Championship competition. Special congratulations to champions' Amy D. (2nd and 3rd place, Millie K. (5th and 6th place), Natalie M. (4th place), and Olive K. (2nd and 6th place). We are so proud of dancer Audrey P. who secured her third and final 1st place win to achieve Open Champion. Hard work and perseverance pay off and you are a such a great example of this Audrey, congratulations! Champion Natalie M. also competed at the Jersey Shore Feis a week later and won a 1st and 3rd place, making her just one win away from achieving Open Champion. The next local feis is the McKeever Feis in September!!



## Workshop with Riverdance Lead Lauren Smyth

We were honored to host a workshop with Lauren Smyth in the CLARA Auditorium. Lauren has been the lead dancer in Riverdance for over ten years. Lauren is from Northern Ireland and has a background in Festival style Irish Dance, which is related to our style but is danced to slower music and emphasizes performance and storytelling. She taught our dancers a Festival Style routine, coached them on stage presence, and shared her inspiring story of how she fulfilled her childhood dream to be in Riverdance. Lauren taught our dancers about Passion, Perseverance, and Purpose, and finding these concepts in one's dancing. It was a truly unforgettable experience!







## Celebrating 150 years at the Crocker Art Museum

We were honored to perform at the Crocker this month to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the museum. The celebration also honored the history of Irish and Chinese immigrants who built the railroads that the development of the West. We were proud to represent our Irish culture at this event! Congratulations to Aryana, Natasha, and Sierra on your first McKeever show!



Dancer Estela G. Seen here at the famous Camp Rince Ceol with TCRG and former Riverdance cast member Megan Lucy. Megan and miss McKeever toured together for many years! This amazing dance camp is celebrating its 20th year and we hope you had a great experience Estela!



You may have noticed this cool new statue on the front lawn of CLARA this past month! Gilbert "Magu" Sanchez Lujan's work "Walking the Dogs" This piece was moved to CLARA from its former home near the stage door of the convention center. Miss McKeever even remembers walking past it when she danced in Sacramento on the Riverdance tour in 2011!!!

"The Chicano art icon said of his work: "Everything I do is about humans," he once told the website Latinopia.com. "So I make the car a human being, but for me making them these cartoon characters is a subterfuge for something else. This way I could deal with racism in a different way, to counter a lot of these anti-Mexican feelings by hiding behind whimsy, color, innocence, folksy."



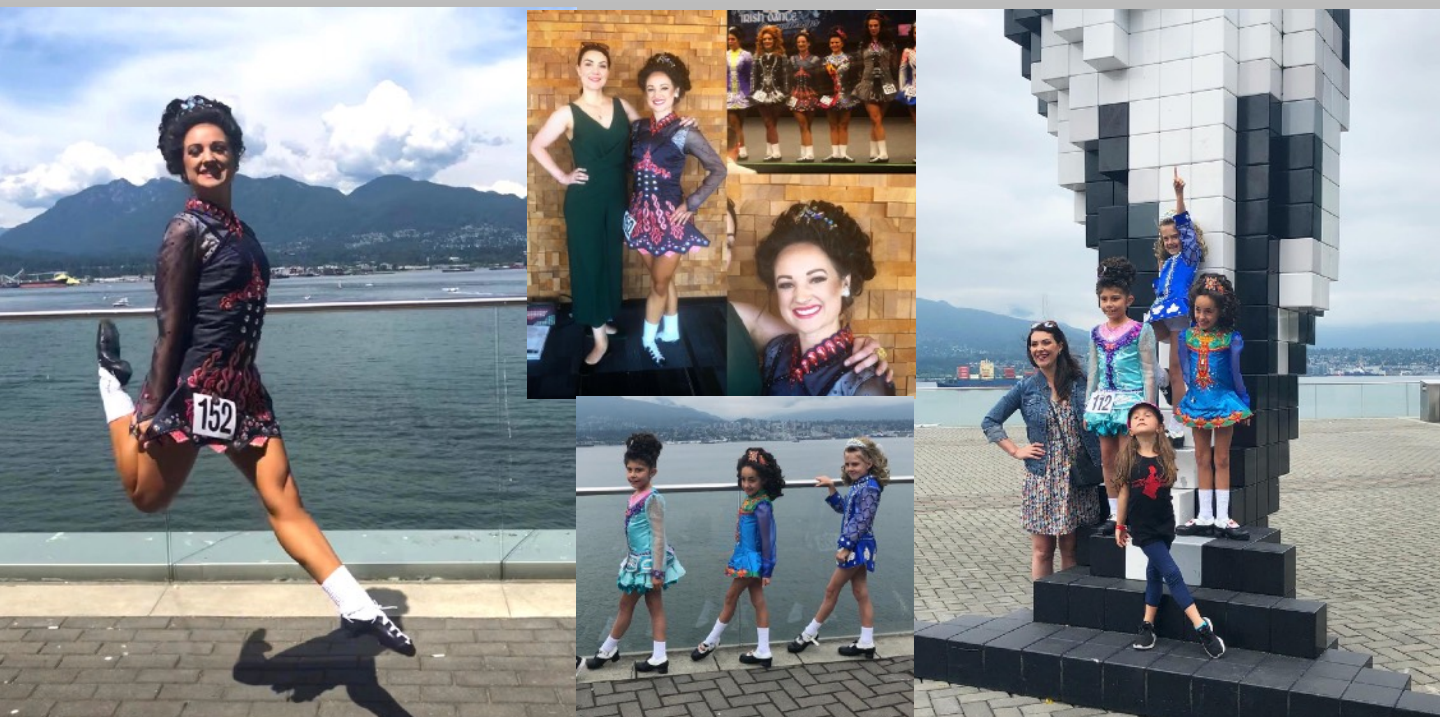
Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Feis Fundraiser at the Dailey Method! We raised \$300 that will be used toward getting our first feis off the ground! Thank you to Nasreen K. who had the great idea and helped organize the event!



# North American Championships in Vancouver

Four of our beautiful dancers competed at the 50th North American Championships in Vancouver, Canada at the start of the month. The venue was stunning and we were even there for some amazing fireworks right on the water in celebration of Canada Day. Open Champion Morgan Martin competed in the Senior Ladies category against dancers from across the globe including many current and former World Champions. She danced the best we have ever seen and ranked 49th internationally. Not an easy feat! Morgan is a true role model who exhibits dedication and positive and humble sportsmanship! Her new sporty navy and coral dress was designed by Natalie McKeever and created by KDSF dresses.

Three of our younger dancers had the opportunity to compete in the Under 8 and Under 9 categories also against dancers from across the globe. Amy D. Sophia T. and Olive K. Got up and did their absolute best and we could not be more proud of them. This week long event is an honor to participate in and we hope that all four McKeever dancers walked away proud to have graced that stage. A competitive career is really a long game, its a small community even though it looks big from the outside. Showing up and participating helps you to understand the level you are training for and introduces you to a larger heritage of judges, teachers and schools from around the world. Personally I was very proud to have my own former teacher Jennifer Nagle McGovern on one of the Adjudicator panels. Thank you girls for putting the McKeever Team name up on stage and for working diligently towards your own personal goals.



## CLARA Summer Camp



This is our third year teaching Visual Arts and Irish Dance Classes during CLARA's Free Two week Summer Camp. School District Children get to spend an entire two weeks taking various classes from all of the amazing CLARA tenants. They also get to put on a performance on the last day of the camp. We believe that the Arts can give so much to children and we are so proud to offer these opportunities to students who would otherwise not have access to Arts Education.



**\*\*SUMMER VACATION DATES\*\***  
**NO CLASSES**  
 JULY 28th - AUG 3rd (classes back on August 4th)

**CLARA SUMMER CAMP**  
<https://www.claramidtown.org/camp/>

**WHEN:** July 22nd - August 2, 2019  
 Monday - Friday for two weeks from 9am-4pm

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**  
 Summer Camp is open to students in grades 6-12, ages 11-18 (11-year olds must be entering 6th grade in the Fall).

\*\*Check out website for pricing and more information\*\*

Sacramento Republic Game  
 Pre-Game Performance  
 Saturday August 17th



**Cute Factor award! Dancer Millie K. Made a beautiful drawing that adorable beginner Allie S. hung on her inspiration wall ! Allie's mom made it into this cool shirt she wore to class and surprised Millie with! We love how many talents all of our McKeever Students have!**

We are getting close! Just about one month to sign up for the McKeever School Feis! Deadline is August 19th to avoid late fees. We also have a cap of 350 competitors. This competition is a team effort and all your support so far is greatly appreciated. Please participate as a dancer by competing! Parents and retired dancers we will also be sending out fun volunteer positions for the day before and the the day of! Lets show the Irish Dance Community we are a team and welcome them to Sacramento!



Did you know all the updates, show and event signups and important emails are all saved for you on the Parent Dancer Page on [mckeeverdance.com](http://mckeeverdance.com) access it anytime with the current door code!

**CA State Fair 2019 (6th Year of Performing)**



July 14th was our fun annual performance at the CA State Fair. This is the 6th year in a row we have graced the promenade stage! Dancers of all levels put on a 35 min high energy show to some really huge crowds! Congrats to dancers Soairse H. Paloma H. And Lucy B. On dancing in your first show ever! Thanks to all participated and made this a very memorable and fun day!