



# McKEEVER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE NEWSLETTER MARCH-APRIL 2016

## Busiest Month Ever!

For all Irish Dance schools around the World, March is one of the busiest months of the year! March of 2016 turned out to be a jam packed month for the McKeever School with many wonderful events and blessings! Between Parades, performances big and small, TV appearances, moving into our new studio and the World Championships this month was awesome!

On Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>, students and families of the McKeever School marched for our third time in the Old Sacramento Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Thankfully we were up at the front of the line and avoided the rainstorm that blew in just as we finished completing the parade route. Special thanks to the Shamrock Club of Sacramento for inviting us to march alongside them! We also thank Brianna McKinley for her outstanding photography that day!



# Getting Some Great Press!

This past month the McKeever School had one radio appearance on Money 105.5FM, Two appearances on Fox40 and two appearances on *Good Day Sacramento*. We also had a profile piece written up about us by the famed *Girls on the Grid* as well as a mention in the *Sacramento Bee* about our Open House Event!

Thank you to everyone who woke up super early to be at the TV studios at the crack of dawn! Check out our website under "News" for links to all the aforementioned press.



# Dancing Around Sacramento



We had a lot of fun in March dancing at various locations and occasions. We were invited by Joe McNamara and the Limelight Bar and Grill to dance at their first ever "Sacramento's Irish Social Event". It brought together family friendly and celebratory entertainment, all while promoting Irish American culture in a genuine and positive way! We look forward to being a part of the event for many years to come!

Some of our dancers also volunteered their time and talent by performing at the United Cerebral Palsy Center to help entertain a wonderful crowd of adults with disabilities.

The McKeever School also made an appearance at a Roller Derby Halftime Show where dancer Delilah S. was able to dance a jig in front of her mom's roller derby team the Outlaws!!

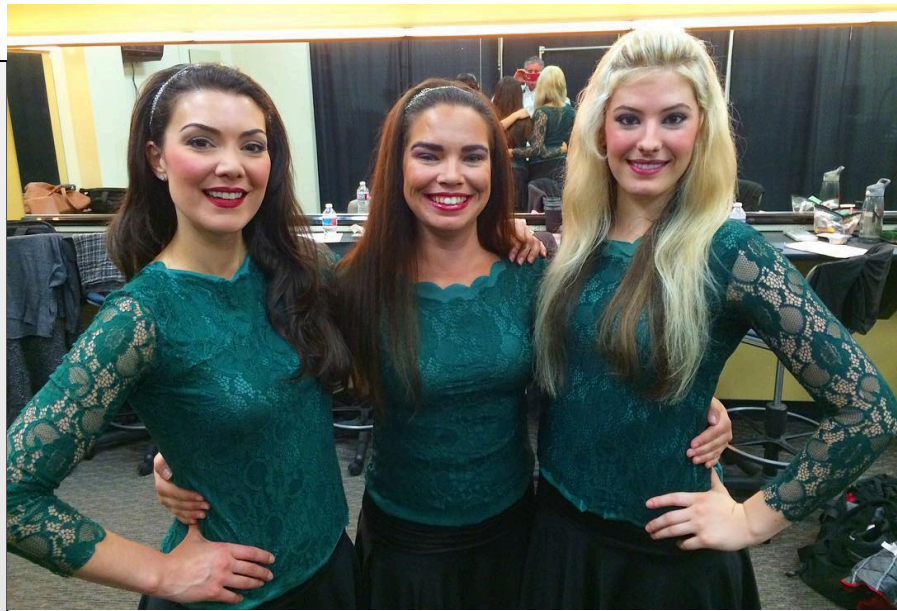
Thank you to everyone who participated in all these wonderful events!

# Getting a Taste for the Professional Stage!

It's a pretty incredible thing to be in your teens and have the chance to dance in a professional show and get paid! This was the case this month for our two Open Champion dancers Laura G. and Moriah P.

The first event was a really unique opportunity for myself as a choreographer. I was invited by Donald Kendrick and the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra to create a piece to Welsh composer Karl Jenkin's "Songs of Sanctuary". This piece was Celtic in some aspects but something entirely new for me to choreograph to. Laura, Moriah and myself performed on my birthday March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Sacramento Community Center Theater, in front of a choir of over 200 singers and 100 musicians. This was such an exhilarating and enjoyable experience.

Little did I know one of my dancers Ambrosia was in the Sacramento Children's Chorus that night too! Thanks for singing so beautifully Ambrosia, and thank you Laura and Moriah for working so hard in your spare time on that number and really doing an outstanding job!



# Worth the Wait!

March finally brought the opening of our new studio space at the E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts. This has been more than a year of searching, planning and construction, and now we finally have a state of the art space to train and perform in. On March 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated with an Open House event. Music, dance and an atmosphere of sheer excitement filled our new space that day. It is apparent that dancers are already dancing harder and better than I have ever seen before in our new classes. Think of where you will all be in the next year! The opportunities of this performance space are incredible. Having the Sac Ballet, Capital Stage and so many other professional Arts groups under the same roof is like nothing else in the country!



## Inspiring her Fellow Classmates!

At the end of the month of March our dancer Moriah P. travelled with her mom and dance teacher Miss McKeever to Glasgow, Scotland to compete at the World Championships of Irish Dance. This was her first time competing at what is considered to be the Olympics of Irish Dance. Her age group the 18-19 year old category had over 150 of the best dancers from all over the globe. The best of the best took the stage with Moriah, and she represented the school and the Western United States Region wonderfully.

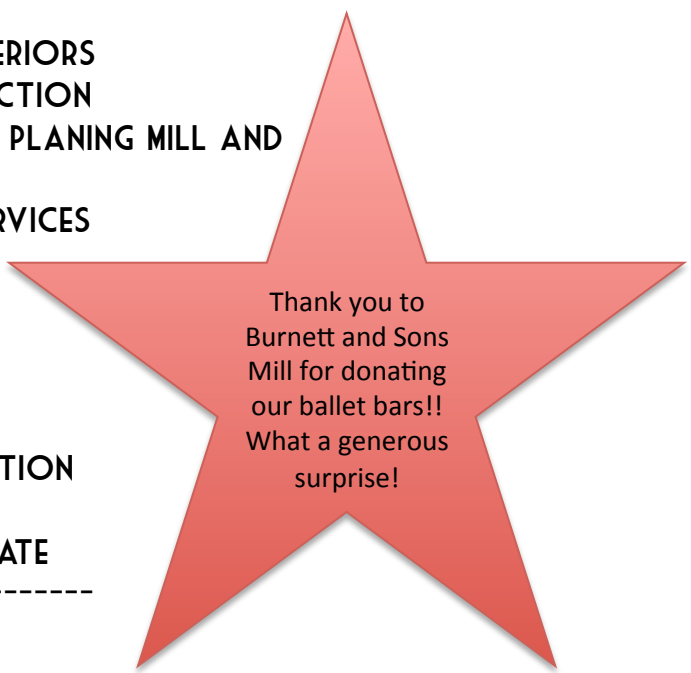
Two solid rounds with no mistakes and lots of energy were danced by Moriah that day. She is inspired to train hard for her next big competition, the North American Championships this July in Orlando, Florida!

Congrats, wonderful dancing Moriah!



**THE MCKEEVER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE WOULD LIKE  
TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES  
FOR MAKING THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR NEW  
STUDIO POSSIBLE!**

- CHRIS AND LINDA WHELAN
- RICHARD RICH
- TAMMY ISAAK, STUDIO RED INTERIORS
- SEQUEIRA AND SONS CONSTRUCTION
- JIM MILLER, BURNETT AND SONS PLANING MILL AND LUMBER COMPANY
- HAMMOND ART CONSULTING SERVICES
- ASSOCIATED SOUND
- HOBRECHT LIGHTING
- BR ACOUSTICAL, INC.
- AMERICAN RIVER FINISHING
- RAMIRO'S GLASS WORKS
- STEPHEN HOLLADAY CONSTRUCTION
- JUAN CARLOS TORRES
- TURTON COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
- -----
- RALEY-TEEL FAMILY
- RUDOLPH AND SLETTEN, INC.
- DREYFUS & BLACKFORD ARCHITECTS
- STUDIOS OPERATING COMPANY
- SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- CITY OF SACRAMENTO



Thank you to  
Burnett and Sons  
Mill for donating  
our ballet bars!!  
What a generous  
surprise!



## Cute Factor of the Month!

Tiny Tot Gracie K., age 3, gets to try on her mini hard-shoes on the studio dance floor for the first time! Our Tiny Tot Class is making progress on their Jig and are clearly a class of future Champions in the making! Keep it up Tiny Tots!