

McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter MARCH-APRIL 2019

MARCH MADNESS!!

This was the 6th year the McKeever School participated in the Sacramento Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Old Sacramento! The day starts off early with three 10 min performances on the streets as the crowds gather for the parade. Then our big group lined up with the front of the parade behind the Shamrock Club and the Fire Brigade! We are so honored to be 3rd in the line for parade among a wonderful lineup. Crowds definitely love our sea of bouncing McKeever Dancers!! After the 17 min loop of cheering and jigging dancers were off to the next performance! Dancers even made it on the news! Thank you to everyone who made this years' parade another wonderful experience.

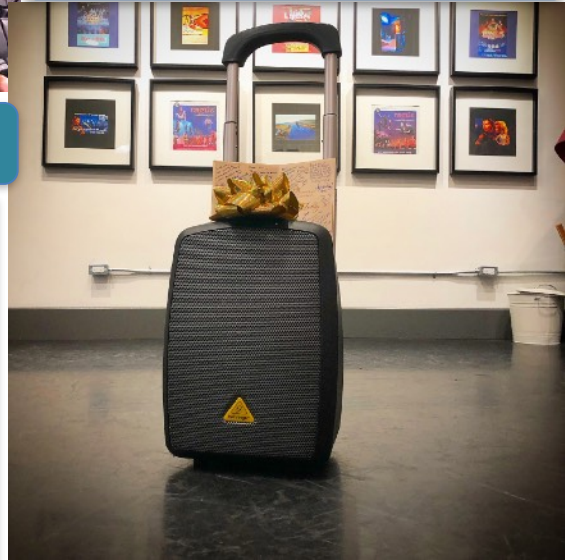


Performing at the Kings Game

On March 23rd we had 42 McKeever Dancers of all levels participate in a Pre-Game Performance at the Golden One Center. This Sacramento Kings game was against the Phoenix Suns. Dancers had a long day with a quick run through on the court and then a lot of anticipation. They performed to a high spirited two minute routine set to Ed Sheeran's "Galway Girl" and the Dropkick Murphy's "Shipping Out to Boston". Once all the handwork was over and the McKeever dancers successfully performed on such a prestigious court, dancers were set free to enjoy the game with their families and friends. It was a great night with the Kings winning it in the 4th quarter! Keep your eye out for this same opportunity next year!!



Birthday Surprise



Thank you to the parents and dancers who gave Ms. McKeever the amazing gift of a portable speaker for her birthday! The gift was well timed and it was used at nearly every performance we did this March. Next year you might see it bedazzled with some crystals!

Nutrition Workshop

Our mission is to leverage proven, traditional nutritional pathways to health and well-being with emerging science on nutrition, health, physical performance and overall well-being to enable our clients to enjoy a healthy, robust and fulfilling lifestyle.



Fechner Nutrition, LLC

Rebekah Fechner, MS

Parent and dancer Rebekah Fechner shared her professional knowledge of nutrition in a workshop for our dancers. Attendees learned about nutrition for the Irish Dance Athlete, training, and competition days. Thanks to all who attended!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Worlds Raffle this month. It helped to raise over \$200 for dancers headed to compete at the World Championships in Greensboro, NC. Dancer Dhalia G. Won a McKeever Backpack and two tickets to see Cirque De Soleil's new show at the Golden One Center!!

Harris Center with Kerry Productions

Champion Dancers Moriah P. And Morgan M. were asked by Kerry Productions to star as lead dancers in the show Saint Patrick's Day in Ireland. The girls did a phenomenal job performing graceful soft shoe solos and show-stopping A Capella routines. For the Saturday performance at the Harris Center Moriah and Morgan were joined by a cast of more then 20 McKeever Dancers! We filled the stage dancing to a live band, performing treble reels and lights jigs. Novice dancers, champs, and adults gained valuable experience with this professional production, with a few hours of rehearsal prior to the show. They were very happy with our performance and hope to have us back next year. As a special bonus this show was professionally filmed by the production! Official video coming soon!



Performing with Jig Jam & Eileen Ivers

After the performance at the Harris Center the McKeever School brought 10 dancers over to the prestigious Mondavi Center in Davis. There had been communication that we were to perform alongside the band Jig Jam that night, but nothing was certain and our routine was up in the air! We got there, found the band, made up a routine and did our best to jump on stage with them with no rehearsal!! Not an easy feat but something that dancers Eva S., Ana P., Isa P., Bridget F., Heather N., Morgan M., Olive K., Amy D., and Natalie M., were completely capable of. Jig Jam was so friendly and really appreciative of our performing during their show. (Their music is super fun by the way so check them out!) The exciting part of the evening was when legendary fiddle player Eileen Ivers, who was the first fiddle player in Riverdance walked past our dressing room and upon hearing a cacophony of taps and peaked in the door. Natalie recognized her and we started chatting to Eileen, then she asked us to come out at the end of the show while she was playing! Truly an honor!

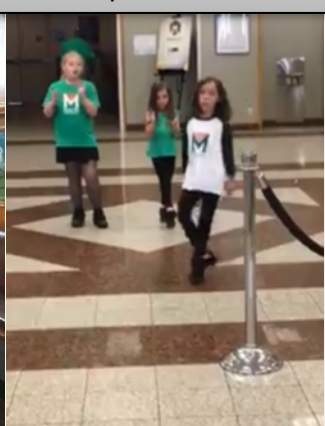


More Fun Performances

We love to give back to our community through dance during the St. Patrick's day season. Many of our dancers performed for a special audience at the senior living homes Mercy McMahon in East Sac, and Oakmont Living in Carmichael and Fair Oaks. Audiences loved our cute and talented dancers and it was a huge highlight of their St. Patrick's celebration. We would love to arrange a performance with these communities again soon, maybe at Christmas time!



Champ dancers Bridget F., Isa P., and Ana P. performed a lively busking routine at Father Paddy's in Woodland for their St. Patrick's day celebration. They brought down the house with the rhythm! Dancers Devin, Ruby and Olive Performed at a Library on their own and pulled off a wonderful performance like pros!



Dancers also performed for the Knights of Columbus in Elk Grove at the Good Shepard Church. This is a major celebration of St. Patrick's Day for the group and they absolutely loved our lively performance. They even asked us back for next year before we left the building!

More fun Performances

Downtown Commons by the new Golden 1 Center has a Second Saturdays program for families and community. Our dancers performed to 30 minute routines for the public, even dancing through the cold and impending rain. Great job dancers!



Congrats to Champion Audrey

With all of the St. Patrick's Day madness, there is not much time to feis in March. However, dancer Audrey P. competed at the top of the month in Seattle and came away with a well deserved first place in Preliminary Championships. She is now one win away from the top level of Open Champion. Keep up the hard work and dedication Audrey!! We also had dancer Estela G. compete in Seattle at the end of the month and proudly represent the McKeever School!



This month Miss Natalie and Miss Nicole had the opportunity to represent the country of Ireland at Sutter Hospital's Multicultural Fair. They put on two 10 min performances of hard shoe dancing and explained some of the history of our art form to the audience. There was also some really beautiful dancing from the Philippines, Columbia and Samoa!

IMPORTANT DATES

Competition - April 6th and 7th, City by the Bay Feis and Golden State Feis in San Francisco hosted by the Whelan School

Performance - April 7th., St. Anthony's Charity Show, Benefitting the Homeless Suffering From Aids. St. Anthony's Church 660 Florin Road.

World Championships April 14th-21st
This year we are sending a Senior Ladies 8 Hand to compete! Our first ever team at the World's.
NO CLASSES Thursday April 18th.

Performance - Woodland Celtic Games - April 27th and April 28th, Yolo County Fairgrounds
NO CLASSES THIS WEEKEND

NO CLASSES May 26-27th, Memorial Day Weekend

Performance - National Day of Dance - Saturday May 11th

Competition - June 1st and 2nd Lucky 7's/Silicon Valley Feis in San Jose hosted by the Greene Academy
NO CLASSES June 2nd

Now that March Madness is over we are turning our focus to our big feis in September. We have a beautiful venue, 6 judges, 2 musicians booked, a syllabus and preliminary schedule created, and all our Champion Awards purchased, along with many other small bits of progress! We will also be hosting Grade Exams 1-10 on the Sunday Sept. 8. Many parents have already volunteered to help with the feis and we are so grateful! Right now our big need is fundraising through our sponsorship opportunities. Please share information about our advertising program with potential sponsors! You can send them to mckeeverdance.com/feis for more information. At some point in the near future we will have sign ups for day of the feis duties and feis set up duties that we would love to have volunteers for. Look for feis registration on Feiswork in the next few months!



**McKEEVER
SCHOOL FEIS**