



# McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter NOVEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024

## 2023 Western US Oireachtas



This past November the Regional Championships were held in Phoenix, Arizona and the McKeever School sent 36 dancers to represent the team. The competed in traditional set dance solos, Championship solos (to qualify for the Worlds), Adult Championships and Team or Ceili competitions! Dancers from 13 different States gather together each November for this event as part of the Western USA Oireachtas or Regional Qualifying Championships. Next Year's championship will also be in Phoenix!



The Oireachtas is fun for dancers of all ages and levels. Consider being part of a team or competing in solos next year if you are interested!



# 2023 Western US Oireachtas

The week before Thanksgiving the McKeever Team descended upon Phoenix and competed against dancers from 13 states over 3 days. Day one we had 11 champs compete and looking their absolute best. Our 3 open champs recalling making the top of their groups. Sophia Teves (21st) and Olive Kincaid (22nd) qualifying for Nationals and Ruby Kincaid (7th) and qualifying for Worlds for the first time in her career!!!! We are so proud of everyone! Ruby will travel to Glasgow, Scotland the week before Easter and compete against dancers from across the globe at the Oireachtas Rince Na Cruinne or World Irish Dance Championships. On day two of the Oireachtas we had all our teams and traditional set soloists compete. It's a huge deal to put in all that work and go up there on stage. A special shout out to our U8 team coming in 4th overall!! Outstanding! To top it off all four girls placed in their solos as well! Kiana 22nd, Alina 20th, Ella 7th and Emilia 6th!!!! This Oireachtas was extra special because this was Miss Natalie's first Oireachtas as a TCRG or official certified Irish Dance teacher! Day three of the Oireachtas was a success with seven champs competing and pulling off their absolute best on stage. Congratulations to Morgan, Dahlia, Millie, Hannah, Chloe, Emelina, and Rory who represented the team that day. We saw you give your absolute biggest effort up there! Huge congratulations to Morgan and Rory on their recalls and Nationals Qualifications! Morgan coming in 25th out of an insane group and Rory 12th in another talented competition. Both are qualified for the North American Championships in Texas!



# McKeever Parent Team is the BEST

Huge shout out to all the McKeever parents who went above and beyond this past fall helping dancers come together and build team spirit. This year dancers enjoyed creating and sharing team posters and bracelets. McKeever Champion Abbey G. started the poster tradition for our school and dancers love hanging them on their hotel room doors at Oireachtas. Dancers from the whole school signed good luck messages on them during the weeks leading up to the competition. Thank you to Alexis Smith and Liz Teves for helping to organize posters this year! They were outstanding and included pop rocks that said "get ready to rock oireachtas" and even an adorable illustration of our school mascot Tumbleweed the dog!



A new tradition and team building activity from the Western US Region this year was friendship bracelets! Dancers created unique Irish Dance or School Specific designs and traded them with dancers from other schools at the championships! Some of our dancers even traded with other kids from schools they met on the plane while traveling to the event!

This year we also had a Regional Championships Team bonding dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory on J Street! Thank you Kayleigh Bird and Lindsey Kivetos for organizing such a beautiful event for us all, the food and atmosphere were perfect and there was even team trivia and prizes! We really appreciate all the handwork that went into this event and everyone who participated!



# WOW We Won!



## DANCE STUDIO



McKeever School of Irish Dance  
2420 N St #203  
Sacramento  
mckeeverdance.com

The goal of McKeever School of Irish Dance is to spread and preserve the art of Irish dance while making it a channel for friendship, fitness, and confidence. Dancers have the choice to compete or perform at many levels, and an emphasis is always placed on building the individual's self-confidence and sense of community. Owner Nicole McKeever has toured the world for seven years performing in such shows as Riverdance.

Check out the new page on our parent dancer section of our website and click On the Saint Patrick's Day icon to sign up for some of these exciting shows!

FRIDAY MARCH 15th  
Nursing Home Shows  
All dancers eligible

SATURDAY MARCH 16th  
Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Old Sacramento  
All dancers eligible

SATURDAY MARCH 16th  
Performance at the Limelight at East Sacramento 3-8pm  
All dancers eligible

SUNDAY MARCH 17th  
McKeever School Student Showcase at Hiram Johnson

March 24th - March 31st  
WORLD IRISH DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Glasgow, Scotland  
Go Ruby Kincaid!!!!

NO CLASS  
Easter Sunday  
SUNDAY MARCH 31st

NO CLASSES  
Spring Break SUNDAY MARCH 31st - SATURDAY APRIL 6th

Saturday May 4  
KVMR CELTICFEST  
All dancers eligible

We were incredibly excited to find out we are the winners of 2023 Sacramento Bee's Favorite Dance Studio!!! This distinction is so incredible especially as we celebrate 10 years in business. Thank you Sacramento, and thank you to all our amazing dancers and families who voted for us!

## Dressing up as Miss Nicole for Halloween

This past Halloween dancer Ella T. Dressed up and surprised Miss Nicole by dressing up as her (perfectly!) This was hilarious and brought back memories of now Open Champion Olive Kincaid in 2018 when she did the same thing!  
So glad Miss Nicole has updated her look in these last 5 years!



# CLARA Holiday Market Celebrations



At the start of December the McKeever School teamed up with CLARA to host a Holiday Market with local artisans. It was a success and a really enjoyable way to kick off the season. One of our favorite parts of the event has been Champion Lena M's awesome business "Lenamade" Where she creates amazing gnomes out of fabric scraps and recycled material. This is her 3rd or 4th CLARA Market and we just love the creative names and unique character traits she gives each of the handmade stuffed creatures.

## Teaching 3rd Graders Irish Dance at Hollywood Park



Our third graders at Hollywood Park Elementary School completed 10 weeks of Irish dance classes with Miss Nicole and performed a full jig on stage this past fall. We are so proud of these dancers! It's a joy every year to work with these students as part of CLARA Midtown's Arts Outreach program. Last year these programs served more than 6,500 SCUSD students with over 20,000 hours of live arts education. Each Irish Dancer gets a special certificate, jig ribbon and vintage Irish Dance Medal to take home after their performance.

# Students Become Professionals in "Christmas with the Celts"

What an exciting December it was for nine of our champions who performed alongside the Nashville Celts in "Christmas with the Celts"! These girls became part of the professional touring show in Modesto and Oakland! Kailey and Dahlia proving themselves and exceeding in the rolls of Dance Captain and Assistant Dance Captain! Champion Dancers Mary, Ruby, Sophia, Devin, Olive, Quinn and Millie dancing their hearts out! We are incredibly proud of all of you!!! The band even mentioned the girls were some of the best performers they have had in the show!

3

GALLO CENTER FOR THE

Dec

ARTS

5:00pm - Modesto, CA

CHRISTMAS  
with  
the  
CELTS



4

YOSHI'S

Dec

8:00pm - Oakland, CA



# Champion Morgan Graces the BIG Stage



McKeever Champion Morgan Martin had two awesome professional opportunities this past December. She performed as a leading role in "Siamsa - A Celtic Christmas" at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno and "Thomaseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas" at the Rio Theater in Santa Cruz. Congratulations Morgan!



Morgan is also a professional photographer and has her own business. She recently took bookings here at CLARA and did some student portraits! Check her out on [instagram @MorganNicolePhotography](https://www.instagram.com/MorganNicolePhotography)



Champs hang out with school mascot Tumbleweed the dog at a recent workshop. Many of them have known Tumbleweed since they were 4 or 5 years old. She is just the best!



## Fun In Utah



Dancer Grace S. Had the rare opportunity to dance at a feis in Utah that Miss McKeever was also judging at! They were happy to see each other on the same flight over. Normally dancers can't compete at the same event a teacher is judging but the this time it worked out and Miss Nicole just judged the champs. We are so happy for you Grace and great job at the feis!

# Get Excited for Saint Patrick's Day Season!

We have a lot of fun planned in March! Check out the Parent Dancer Page and click on the Saint Patrick's Day image to signup for shows! Tell your Family and friends about our free lesson on March 10th and our Student Showcase March 17th. Tickets are now on sale for the show! Just visit [McKeeverDance.com](http://McKeeverDance.com). Then get your orders in for a green McKeever Shirt. Look for an email with more details in early February on how to order!

Sizes:  
XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL, 6XL

#### Features

- 4.3 oz., 60% combed ring-spun cotton/40% polyester jersey
- Fabric laundered for reduced shrinkage
- 1x1 baby rib-knit set-in collar
- Slightly heathered
- Tear-away label

UNISEX



#### Measurements

(in inches)	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6XL
Body Width	17	19	20	22	24	28	30	N/A	N/A	N/A
Body Length	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	N/A	N/A

#### Features

- 4.5 oz., 100% combed ring-spun cotton jersey
- Heather Gray is 60% Cotton / 40% Polyester
- Fabric laundered for reduced shrinkage
- 1x1 baby rib-knit set-in collar
- Sideseamed
- Tear-away label

YOUTH



#### Measurements

(in inches)	XS	S	M	L	XL
Sleeve (Lai)	4-5	6-7	6-9	10-12	14-16
Sleeve Length	8 1/2	8 1/2	7	7 1/2	7 1/2
Body Width	14	16 1/2	17	18 1/2	20
Body Length	19	20 1/2	22	23 1/2	25

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

#### Features WOMENS FITTED

- 4 oz., 80% combed ring-spun cotton/40% polyester lightweight jersey
- Front coversitichod 1x1 baby rib-knit set-in collar
- Fabric laundered for reduced shrinkage
- Tear-away label

Please note: this style is a "junior fit" - please refer to the measurement chart below

#### Measurements

(in inches)	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
Body Width	15	16 1/2	17 1/2	19 1/2	20 1/2	22 1/2	24
Body Length	25 1/2	26 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	28 1/2	29	29



**MCKEEVER**  
**ST. PATRICKS DAY**

**GEAR!**



**ORDER BY:**  
**FEBRUARY 16TH!**

Brittany Brown

888.888.8888



venmo

VENMO:BRITTANYMICHAELLA

**FREE LESSON IRISH DANCE LESSON**  
**RIGHT IN TIME FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!**  
**AT THE MCKEEVER STUDIOS IN CLARA**



If you wanted to try out Irish Dance for FREE just in time for Saint Patrick's Day then you have come to the right place! Enjoy a 30 min lesson in our beautiful studios located at CLARA Performing Arts Center 2420 N Street. You will learn from Irish Dance Master and Riverdance Star Nicole McKeever! Our 5:00 - 5:30 class is for kids under 18 and our 5:30 - 6pm class is for anyone over 18. You must be healthy enough to do some light exercising that does involve jumping. Bring friends and try something new!

SCAN HERE FOR  
KIDS CLASS  
SUNDAY MARCH 10th  
5:00 - 5:30



SCAN HERE FOR  
ADULTS CLASS  
SUNDAY MARCH 10th  
5:30 - 6:00



## Saint Patrick's Day 2024



From Internationally ranked Champions to adorable beginners, this high energy show is sure to make your Saint Patrick's Day a joy filled and awe inspiring evening! Directed by former Riverdance cast member and Irish Dance Masters Nicole and Natalie McKeever

## IRISH DANCE Showcase

**Sunday, March 17th 5pm**

Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium  
6879 14th Ave, Sacramento, CA

**Tickets \$15 - \$30**

Visit [www.McKeeverDance.com](http://www.McKeeverDance.com)

# Miss McKeever is on a Podcast!



Miss McKeever had fun appearing on the podcast TCRG to CEO. She talked about her journey from dancer, to professional and then studio owner. Check out the podcast on Spotify or other popular platforms.

Episode 49: Nicole McKeever on Living Her Childhood Dreams

TCRG TO CEO RADIO



Liked by meghevindance  
courtneyjay\_tcrg Today's episode features guest Nicole McKeever on her path to achieving her childhood dreams + Nicole is a TCRG, ADCRG, MA Irish Dance graduate of University of Limerick, and a member of Riverdance from 2008-2013. How did she do it? Find out by listening on your favorite podcast platform or through the link in my bio.  
53 minutes ago

Courtney Jay TCRG here, host of TCRG to CEO Radio, the podcast for Irish dance teachers, studio owners, and aspiring teachers/studio owners who want to learn teaching and business skills to succeed in their careers, impact more students, and raise the glass ceiling of their success!

## Kennelly Feis in San Francisco



## Claddagh Feis



Congratulations Mia, Devin and Brittany on all your outstanding top placements this past December at the Claddagh Feis in Rancho Mirage

You make us so proud with your hard work, team spirit and talent!

Congratulations to all our hardworking team who competed at the John Kennelly Memorial Feis in San Francisco this past January. Champions Allie and Rory brought home a 5th and 2nd in their preliminary championships!

We are so proud of you all! Pictured above are dancers, Rory, Grace, Dahlia, Allie, Susie, Ella and Alina!

# Irishpalooza 2024 at Harlow's

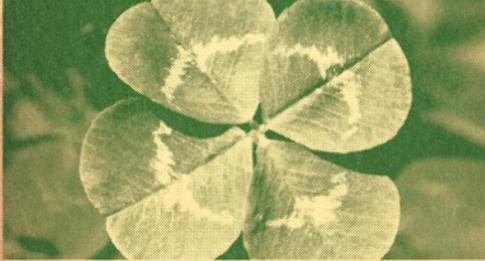
Irishpalooza 2024 was an absolute blast!!! Thank you Stout Rebellion, The Pint Thieves, Lions of the North, One Eyed Reilly and Harlow's Nightclub!! This year was super fun and there was a great turnout as always.

This event reminds us that Irish culture in Sacramento is vibrant!! The McKeever School was lucky enough to dance to live music from James Wilson on tin whistle, Stephen Davis on guitar and Aaron Hendel on standup bass.



HARLOW'S PRESENTS

## IRISHPALOOZA



ONE EYED REILLY • STOUT REBELLION • LIONS OF THE NORTH  
THE PINT THIEVES • THE MCKEEVER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

**JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**  
**HARLOW'S**  
6PM // ALL AGES

TICKETS AT HARLOW'S.COM



# Best Way to Start the New Year!

