

McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024 - MARCH 2024

February Competitions Up and Down the State!



Congratulations to our McKeever team at the Fog City Feis and Feis San Francisco on February 17 - 18. Dancers showed up and danced their best making the team look strong. Special shout out to Luke B. On your first feis and Grace W. On your first championships! Congratulations to prelim champions Hannah D. - 2nd, Kailey G. - 2nd, Allie S. - 4th, Devin P - 1st treble reel!, McKenna - 2nd treble reel!

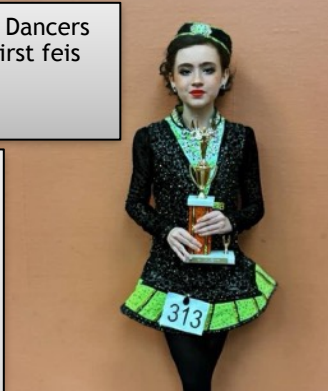


Congratulations to our four dancers who went down to San Diego to compete at the start of February. Thank you to the Clan Rince School who hosted!

It was dancer Shannon W's first championship!!
Dancer Alina E. getting closer to championship level

Champion Ruby K. Earned 1st and 3rd overall in Open Championships

Champion Olive K. placing first and third in her rounds with new steps in Open Championship!!



Morgan Martin's Last Major Championship

We could not be more proud of Champion Morgan Martin! What a stellar performance at the All Ireland Championships in Killarney, Ireland! She has been traveling to our studio from Reno for the past 8 years and have been undeniably dedicated to this her team and Irish Dance. She has graced the professional stage and represented our school at the Regionals, Nationals, Worlds and All Ireland's. Morgan is an inspiration to her teammates and we all love you so much. Excited for this next chapter as you press pause on competition to pursue some outstanding career paths!

You are such a positive light and a beautiful dancer.



the_captain_morgann_ The end of an era 🍀
Two full decades of Irish dancing, and ending my competitive career on such a high; competing at the All Irelands.

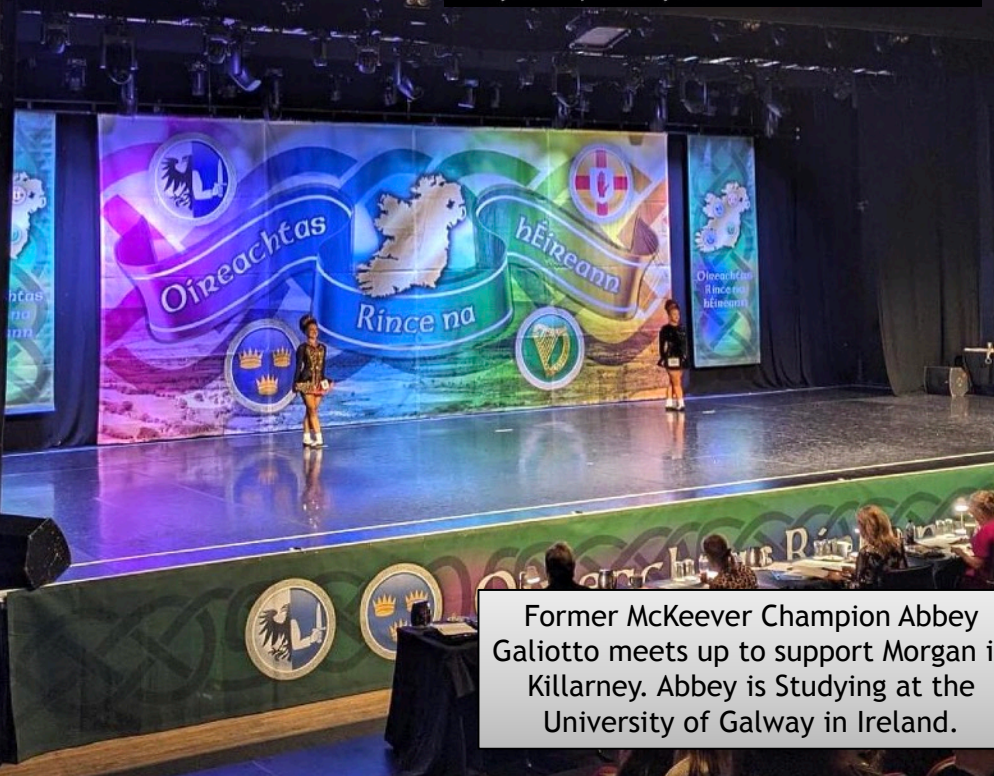
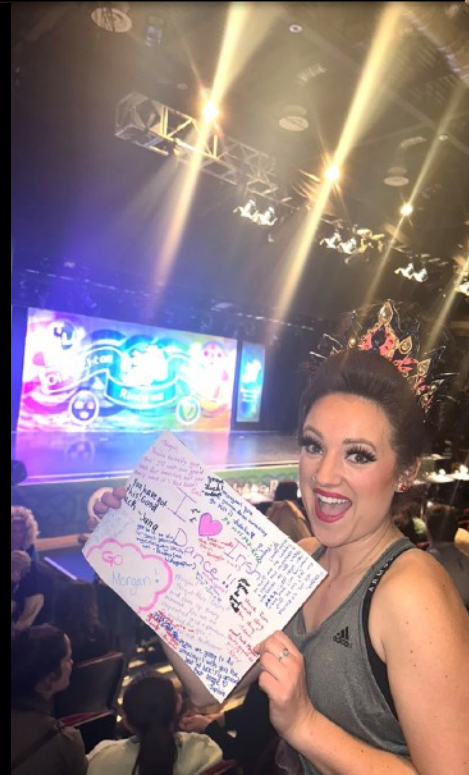
The mental and physical challenge to get to this point is beyond humbling and to dance at the highest level of standard in such an outstanding group of senior ladies is always equally humbling.

Starting in June (announcement to come) I will beginning a different journey in which it will be incredibly difficult to prioritize keeping up with this sport. For those that understand, this isn't something that you can leisurely compete in. You have to be 100% focused and committed to perform at this high of a caliber.

To say that Irish Dance has been a journey for me is such an understatement. I Started out with a previous school to which I outgrew their bandwidth, and unfortunately spent a majority of these years frustrated my abilities couldn't be challenged. But that isn't to say the families, memories, and experiences weren't all worth it. You know who you are 🙏

Because of this I made the difficult decision (but most rewarding) to switch schools only 8 years ago. And for the past 8 years I have been driving 4 hours every weekend to train with the McKeever School in Sacramento. Nicole has given me more than I could have asked for. She pushed my absolute limits and is the reason I have had the opportunity to compete at regionals, North American nationals, Worlds, and All Irelands. Equally the reason I have been chosen as lead roles for multiple shows and danced alongside some of the most well known Irish bands on tour. Truly some indescribable experiences that I wouldn't have the opportunity to be part of if Nicole hadn't opened her arms to me joining her studio 8 years ago. Something I am eternally grateful for.

Going forward, I'm not certain what dancing in the future looks like for me. Whether I work towards my TC, dance for fun, or have the opportunity to compete again later, who knows. But all I know is that I love this unique outlet and it will always have a place in my life.



Former McKeever Champion Abbey Galiotto meets up to support Morgan in Killarney. Abbey is Studying at the University of Galway in Ireland.



MARCH MADNESS Begins with a GoodDay Sacramento Live

On March 13th dancers woke up early to perform on Live tv in anticipation of Saint Patrick's Day! GoodDay Sacramento reporter Molly Riehl interviewed Miss Nicole and was stunned by the dancers performance. She highlighted Ruby Kincaid heading to the World Championships in Glasgow for an international "Dance Battle". What an incredibly fun morning! I am always so proud of how we can pull these routines together last minute when the opportunities happily come our way. Check out the full video on our website.



Second News Performance in One Week!

Thank you Fox40 and anchor Melanie Townsend for learning a step and interviewing us on live TV this past March 15th. Dancers did an excellent job preparing a few different routines that we could adapt for space and time. With Live TV you need to be prepared to change things at the last minute! Everyone at Fox40 was so welcoming and they genuinely loved our performance! So proud of our professional crew! After we danced most dancers either headed back to work or school or to the many nursing home shows we had spread throughout the day.



Sharing our Talents at Nursing Homes

Every year we get asked to perform at nursing homes and senior communities, and that is truly a highlight for us during Saint Patrick's Day. We only wish we could commit to more shows and we were not so limited. It would be wonderful to share our dancing talents with every community that asked us to perform, but we usually have to pick just a few. Dancers Performed all day and traveled to three different locations. Kiana, Rose, Allie, Amelia, Ella and Suzie rocked and did all of the shows including the news that morning! Thank you to all the dancers who participated, your efforts and talents brightened so many faces including your teachers and parents! If you have a facility you would like us to perform in please tell us, we set up bookings about 3-4 months before Saint Patrick's day.



Old Sacramento Saint Patrick's Day Parade



2024 Sacramento Saint Patrick's Day Parade was a blast! Such beautiful weather, big happy crowds and tons of fun performances and activities!! The champions and adults put on a 15 minute high energy show and then we joined the rest of the school and waited for the parade to kick off. Many brand new dancers were joining us at this event for the very first time which is always special. After the parade Miss McKever gave a short lesson as part of the festival. Thank you Maggie F. For volunteering to be a helper! A huge thanks to the Shamrock Club of Sacramento who always insists we are at the start of the parade right behind them after the fire department and pipe band!



McKeever Team in a Sea of Green!





There were so many good pictures this year I had to do three pages worth!!



One of our Favorite Gigs "The Irish Social"

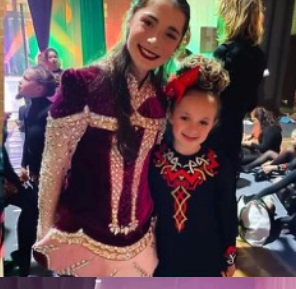
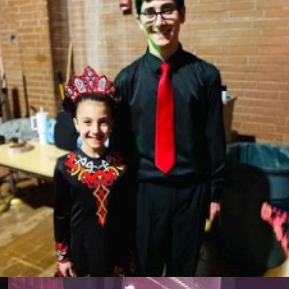
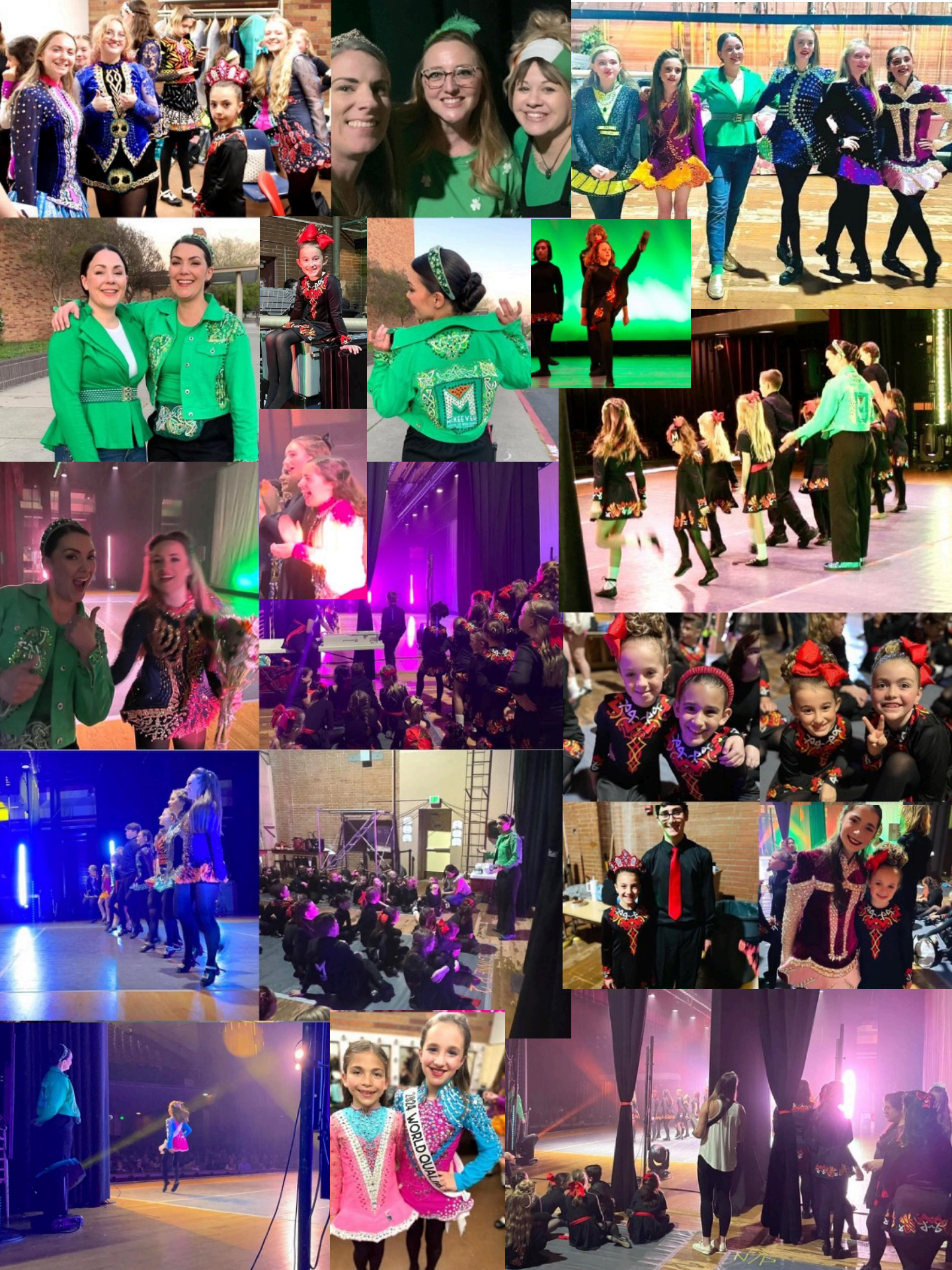
Thank you Joe McNamara founder and organizer of the Irish Social and host Limelight Bar and Grill in East Sacramento for having us perform at such an amazing event! This was an incredible night of music and community! The event benefits a scholarship for students at Christian Brothers High School. Famous Sacramento artists Kitty O'Neil and Clemon also performed. The highlight had to be Saint Patrick marching in and handing out sparkly shamrocks after the pipe band got things started. Thank you to all the dancers who participated and for all the families that came out to support the event,



111 dancers perform on Saint Patrick's Day

What an incredible night we had at the 2024 student showcase! 111 dancers performing for their family and friends and to an audience of nearly 600! Thank you to everyone on our team we couldn't do it without you. Congratulations dancers you put on such a great show! This year we had some incredible lighting by photographer Tony Nguyen! We can't wait to do it again





Last Show of the March Madness Season!

We had a great group of McKeever Adults put on a fun and high energy show at the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity on Thursday March 21st. This mixer event happens monthly on a Thursday night so definitely check it out when you get a chance. Our friends "The Jig Monkeys" who we perform with at Irishpalooza and the Shamrock Club were also present. The great part of performances this season was getting to showcase choreographies from our Adult Performance class. We will now make this a tradition that from April - November we will have teams class and from December - March we will have a performance choreography class. Its been so fulfilling and fun, thank you to everyone who partici[ated]!



MSC MIXER SEEING GREEN

Thursday, March 21, 2024
6:00 - 10:00 PM
18+

Join us to celebrate all things GREEN! Have fun at the museum while exploring nature, renewable energy, and the building blocks of Sacramento - all while enjoying fun, food, and beverages.

Including dance performance by **The McKeever School of Irish Dance** and special musical guest **The Jig Monkeys**.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Wednesday April 17th 3:00 -3:30
PERFORMANCE
Clarksburg Public Library
El día de los niños/El día de los libros

Saturday May 4
KVMR
CELTICFEST PERFORMANCE
All dancers above B2 level eligible

Sunday June 23 4-7pm
PERFORMANCE
Show Solstice Celebration in Grass Valley CA
The North Star Historic Conservancy
All dancers eligible

Saturday July 27 11am
STATE FAIR PERFORMANCE
CAL EXPO
All dancers eligible

Saturday August 24th
PERFORMANCE
Race For the Arts, Land Park.
All dancers eligible

FUN COMPETITIONS

Sunday July 28
MCKEEVER SCHOOL CLASS FEIS
McKeever Studios - This will be a feis with just McKeever Dancers it will be cost effective and count towards Grade Level advancements
All dancers eligible

- **FEIS** April 20th-21st City by the Bay, Golden State Feis
 - **FEIS** May 18th-19th Save the Planet Feis in San Francisco
 - **FEIS** June 1st-2nd Silicon Valley Feis, Lucky's 7s Feis in Silicon Valley
 - **North American Championships**
in Grapevine Texas June 30th - July 4th, 2024
 - **FEIS** October 19th - 20th East Bay Feis
- November 23rd-24th Oireachtas



SCHEDULING ITEMS

NO REGULAR CLASSES
Thursday February 29th

NO CLASS
Easter Sunday
SUNDAY MARCH 31st

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

Monday May 27
NO CLASS MEMORIAL DAY

Wednesday May 29 and
Thursday May 30th
NO CLASSES

NO CLASSES
SUMMER BREAK SUNDAY
JUNE 30th - SATURDAY JULY
7th

During the Summer Months we take two weeks off in July. We keep our classes running to keep the doors open!

If we take time off we do not charge you. So in July the Tuition is reduced.

Please consider staying enrolled and taking advantage of our makeup class policy. You can pay for your 2-3 classes in July or your 4 classes in June or August and take them all in one or two weeks instead of spacing them out. We have lots of class options so please just ask. We have found that keeping your dancing skills alive in the summer prevents the dancer from losing stamina and confidence and quitting the activity altogether.

Worlds in Glasgow!



At the young age of 11, Champion Ruby Kincaid graced the stage at the Olympics of Irish Dance on Sunday March 24 in Glasgow Scotland. She earned this incredible opportunity to represent the Western USA and her School after ranking 8th in the region this past Fall. She is the youngest dancer we have sent to this prestigious competition and only the 4th McKeever dancer to qualify in 10 years! Ruby did an incredible job and put everything she possibly could up there on stage. Her focus and determination training for this event deserves recognition. We have no doubt this is your first shot at the Worlds Ruby! Thank you for being a true inspiration to your school. The amount of times young dancers ask about Ruby in class makes us smile. Keep reaching for the stars.



While in Glasgow we happily met up with former McKeever dancers Amy Dodd. Amy moved to Galway Ireland a few years back and has been training successfully with world the World renowned Hession School. Same school the Gardiner brothers hail from! It was so great seeing you and your family Amy.