



# McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter

## September - December 2022

### Third Annual McKeever Feis a Success!



On October 1st 2022 we held the 3rd annual McKeever School Feis at Rosemont High School. With over 250 dancers coming from all over Northern California and beyond, this event was a major undertaking for our team. Our new venue this year was outstanding and Rosemont High School had two beautiful theaters for dancers to compete on. The Rosemont PTA was able to sell food and drinks and raised over \$1000 for their organization. Our judges were John Grimes from New Hampshire, Lisa Power from LA, Lauren Crowe Mueller from Oregon, Tara Reid from Las Vegas and Johanna Lambert from Utah. Our Musicians were Darcy Noonan from San Francisco and Niall O'Leary from New York. We can't say enough about all our fabulous volunteers and committee leaders this year. You guys were outstanding! From setting up and loading out, decorating, organizing raffles, helping to run stages, making sure the judges had food and beverages, checking dancers in and handing out awards, it truly took a team effort and we are so grateful for your time and talents.

The raffle donations were outstanding this year and we want to say thank you! This will help buffer the cost of new batches of awards for next years event.

We hope the McKeever Feis can continue to be a positive and important cultural event in Sacramento. It is now the only Feis in our city, so it's even more important for the growth of our dancers. Above all we strive to make this a professional and fair opportunity, and a day that attendees can fondly look back on.





# McKeever School Feis 2022 Highlights





# McKeever School Feis 2022 Highlights





# Proud of Two McKeever Open Champions

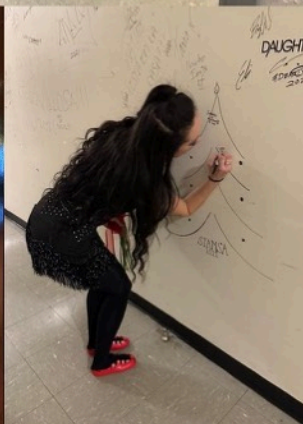
Open Champions Morgan Martin and Sophia Teves are headed to Killarney Ireland in February to compete in the All Ireland Championships! This will be the first time we have students represent the McKeever Team in Ireland, can you believe it!!? We are so proud of them both. Sophia Teves just recently who won an outstanding award as part of a Global Irish Dance Talent Search. She's featured in Irish Dancing Magazine this month as a young star of Irish dance! Her beautiful portrait was taken by non other than her talented teammate Morgan who has a photography business @MorganNicolePhotography



@MorganNicolePhotography



Champion Morgan Martin recently performed lead role in "Siamsa a Celtic Christmas" at the Grand theater in Reno this December. This was an incredible professional opportunity in her hometown and in front of a huge audience.





# A Fun Filled Day To Kick Off The Holiday Season

The first Saturday of December was a fun event filled day at the McKeever School. We helped organize the CLARA Christmas Market, which due to the rain was indoors this year. Having the event indoors wasn't a problem at all since hundreds of people swung by the building that day to visit the newly opened Seasons Coffee. Dancers had a chance to perform after councilwoman Katie Valenzuela spoke. Congrats to a few of our dancers who performed for the first time for the school, Juniper, Amber, Emily, Annaliese, Thomas and Maggie!



After the Market we rented the Brazil Center and had a fun Christmas Party with Pizza and drinks! We taught a few Ceili or social dances and then kept partying till it was time to go home. It was a great chance to get to know each other more and celebrate a successful year together as a school! We will be making this one an annual tradition.



**SAT. DEC. 3RD**  
FROM 11AM - 2PM  
IN FRONT OF CLARA STUDIOS  
2423 N STREET SACRAMENTO, CA

**CLARA STUDIOS & THE MCKEEVER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE PRESENT A VERY ARTSY**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**

PERFORMANCES, FOOD  
LOCAL ARTISANAL GIFTS  
AND MORE!

CLARA



# Dancer's Spotlight



Congrats to our two champs Chloe and Hannah who put on a beautiful performance in November with International Dance Arts Collective!

International Dance Art Collective Presents  
a Celebration of Traditions from Around the World

## Festival of Lights

Tickets At: [dancestudio-pro.com/tickets/idac](http://dancestudio-pro.com/tickets/idac)

November 5th  
2:00 pm and 7:00 pm  
at Del Oro High School



Congrats  
Chloe & Hannah

Congrats to our dancers Ruby, Mia and Brittany who had an outstanding weekend competing at the Claddagh School Feis in Palm Springs! We are so proud of you all.



Our champion Lina got to watch the famous show Raglan Road in Orlando this fall and loved it! She is pictured here with one of the show's dancer's.



**McKEEVER**  
SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

**9 YEARS**  
**108 MONTHS**  
**3285 DAYS**  
**78840 HOURS**  
**4730400 MINUTES**  
**283824000 SECONDS**  
**OF BEING AWESOME**

Can you believe it! We celebrated 9 Years as a school on October 15th. Where has the time gone?







# McKeever Traditional Set Dances at the Oireachtas

On of the categories our dancers were able to compete at Regionals in was the Traditional Set dance category. These are historically based solo dance choreographies set to 7 different potential melodies.

14 McKeever Dancers dancers performed in this category!

Congrats, Summer, Quinn, Brooklyn, Abigail, Madeline, Shannon, Maggie, Grace, Erica, Murrion, Lucy, Nora, Ann and Prairie.

Special Congrats go to dancers awarded in this category!

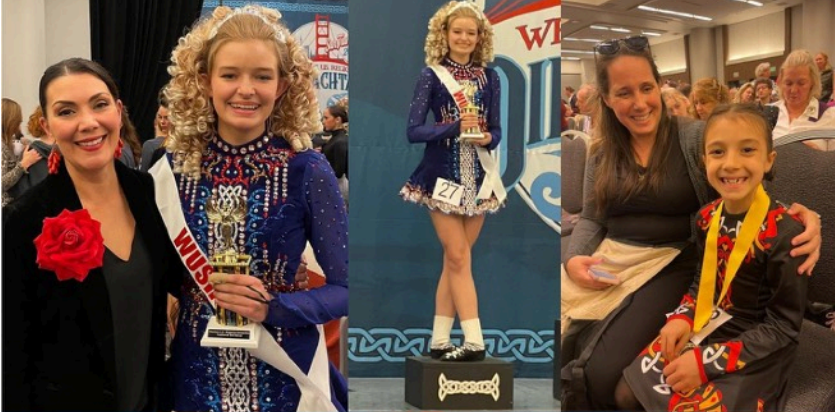
Lucy Bronson 14th U8

Prairie Rose Parsell 17th U13

Murrion Polk 4th 14 and Over

Nora Onopa 7th place 40 and Over

Ann Raftery 11th place 40 and Over





# McKeever Champions at the Oireachtas

We had 18 champions of all ages compete at the Western US Regional Oireachtas 2022! For so many of you just gracing the stage for the first time as a champion is the biggest success. Getting a recall, or the top 50% of the group, is very hard and usually for dancers who have earned the rank of Open Champion. Thank you to everyone parents included for the hard work and support it takes to get a champion ready to compete at the Oireachtas. Next year will be in Phoenix so set your new goals for 2023 high dancers! Special Recognition goes to

- Riordan Borelli 11th place U15 NQ
- Morgan Martin 30th place 22 and Over
- Savannah Carranza 38th place U17
- Olive Kincaid 9th place WQ
- Ruby Kincaid 10th U10 NQ
- Sherry Toutges 9th place Adult Champs 40 and Over



Congrats to all our hardworking McKeever Champions! Thank you to Fabian Hernandez from Active Bodyworks who was there to help some of our dancers and check out the competitive Irish Dance World!



# McKeever Teams at the Oireachtas

We had 15 teams of all ages compete at the Western US Regional Oireachtas 2022 and are so proud of all of them! Some of you only doing teams for 4 months! Teams are choreographies taken from a book called "Ar Rince Ceili" which was originally published in the 1920's and is a collection of historical social dances that had been kept alive for centuries. These dances are now part of modern competitive Irish Dance. Our teams performed The Three Tunes, The High Cauleed Cap and the Sweets of May along with the Four Hand Reel. We are excited to continue building our teams program and hopefully have dancers perform at Nationals and the World Championships!

Special Recognition to the Teams for their Awards!

U8 4hand - 4th place

U10 4hand - 11th place

Ladies 40 and over - 6th place

U10 Ceili - 4th place

U12 Ceili - 5th place

Ladies 40 and over - 4th place





# East Bay Feis

The last competition locally before Regionals was at the end of October in the East Bay and hosted by the McBride School of Irish Dance. It was a great chance for dancers to test out their material and get mentally prepared for the big Oireachtas a few weeks later. Huge congrats to Champion Millie Kinnaird who earned her final 1st place and is now Open Champion! So outstanding!! We also performed a fun group treble reel with 7 of our champions that took 1st place! Congrats to all the dancers who represented the school that weekend. Especially the following dancers who took home special placements in champs.

Sophia Teves - 1st in Open Champ

Abbey Gallioto - 2nd in Preliminary Champs

Devin Powell - 3rd and 5th in Preliminary Champs

Ruby Kincaid - 3rd and 6th in Preliminary Champs

Olive Kincaid - 5th in Open Champs





# Hollywood Park

These adorable 3rd graders just completed 10 weeks of Irish dance lessons as part of CLARA's Arts outreach program in the SCUSD. This program allows CLARA Tenants like the McKeever School to go out and provide arts education access to schools with a majority of the population below the poverty line. These students who may not otherwise have access to arts education benefit so much from these experiences in this program! I hope they have learned to stand tall, enjoy trying new things, have become open to making a mistake, and have challenged their mind and body through Irish dance. This was our hardest working most enthusiastic class yet and I was so excited to hand them recycled Irish dance trophies and "Official Irish Dancer" certificates today!



## Harlow's Presents... 10th Annual IRISHPALOOZA 2023

THE LAST CEILI  
McKeever School of Irish Dance

One-Eyed Reilly  
Stout Rebellion  
The Pikeys

January 14 6:00-9:00 pm  
Doors open at 5:30  
\$20 advance/ \$25 door



Music for dancers by members of Stepping Stone

Mark your calendars for Irishpalooza at Harlows in January!

We are also hosting a big Student Showcase Saturday March 18th at Hiram Johnson High School that will be a fun ticketed event. All dancers can be part of the show! More information coming in the new year. Signup to perform or volunteer will be sent out January 3rd.

Meanwhile check your emails for important event signups.