

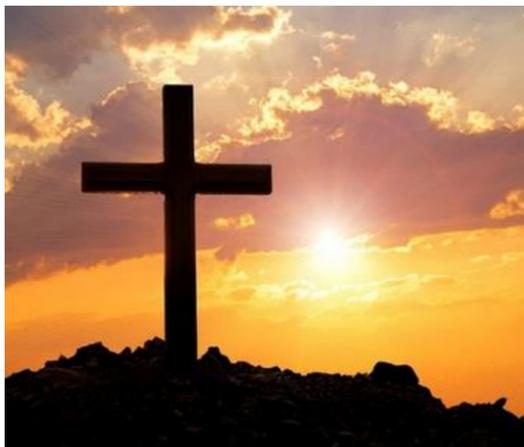


The Blarney Stone



**April 2022
Easter Edition**

HISTORY OF EASTER



Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates Jesus' resurrection. Standard Christian belief holds the event three days after Jesus' crucifixion, but why is the holiday called Easter? Easter got its name from St. Bede the Venerable gave the name Easter to the Holiday coming from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre of spring and fertility. Like most holidays the origins of Easter have pagan roots. The Resurrection of Jesus is said to be the foundation of the Christian faith and what it has been built upon, therefore, Easter is one of the most significant dates on the Christian calendar.



Written By: Riley Piazza

HISTORY OF THE EASTER BUNNY



The Easter bunny has been a tradition in different ways for many years around the world. The Easter bunny is said to have gained popularity in the 1700s. German immigrants came to America, settled in Pennsylvania, and brought their traditions with them. One of their more popular traditions was a hare called Osterhase that laid eggs. Children would make nests for the magical creature to lay its eggs. Over time the tradition spread across America and evolved. Osterhase became the Easter Bunny and instead of making nests, children would paint eggs. Although painting eggs became popular in America, the tradition dates to the 13th century when eggs were a forbidden food during lent so people would decorate them instead of eating them. Soon it became much more than decorating eggs and the bunny would

leave treats such as chocolates or jellybeans for the children. In return, the children would leave carrots for the bunny similar to leaving milk and cookies for Santa Claus on Christmas. Around the world, Easter is celebrated with different animals. In Switzerland, they have an Easter Cuckoo and in Germany, they celebrate with an Easter Fox or Easter Rooster. Although traditions vary, animals are very influential in the Easter holiday.



Written By: Hailey Neill

EASTER CRAFT



Pretty Spring Pot

Materials:

- Terracotta Pot
- Acrylic Paint
- Paintbrush
- Optional: Stencils



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Spring Break, Mr. Irish, & The Spring Musical

Step 1: Decide what you want to paint on your pot. (stencils)

Step 2: Use paintbrush and paints to design.

Step 3: Let dry.

Step 4: Leave empty and use as a fancy decoration or plant a flower inside!



Written By: Sarah Hoehn

THINGS TO DO OVER SPRING BREAK

With spring break approaching, many people are preparing to take a trip out of Illinois. While some people go out of town, many of us end up staying in the area. Sometimes it can be hard to find activities to do around here to keep you entertained. In the event that you find yourself in a state of boredom, here is a list of things to do.

Spring break gives us a taste of summer before school ends, including some beautiful weather. This gives us the opportunity to spend more time outside. In order to take advantage of this, you can take a hike through Perry Farm, the Indian Caves, or even the Kankakee River State Park. After a long winter, it could also be nice to play sports outside, such as tennis and soccer. Many spring sports also have games during spring break to attend.

If you aren't a fan of the outdoors,

there are plenty of other options. This could be a good time to read about things that interest you and that are outside of what you are assigned in school. You can also use this time to catch up on new releases on streaming platforms or even new album releases from your favorite artist. If you are interested in trying new things, this is the perfect time to try that new recipe or a new restaurant in town.

Finally, if you are looking to prepare for the rest of the year, spring break is the best time to do your spring cleaning. You can clean out your room and your closet to find items to donate. After you've decluttered everything, you can give your space a deep clean. Spring cleaning can go beyond our room. This is also a great time to clean out your backpack and prepare for the rest of the semester.



If all else fails, a long sunset drive around town is bound to cure boredom. Whether you go abroad or stay around here, the important part of spring break is to make sure that you relax, recharge, and

get ready to finish out the year strong.



Written By: Sarah Berg

MR. IRISH

Last Friday the senior boys participated in Mr. Irish, a McNamara tradition that was just reinstated. Seniors: Brogan Bilyard, Jose Courtes, Grant Fouts, and Ty Kelly participated in Mr. Irish. They took part in competitions such as best dressed, lip singing, and an obstacle course. It was a fun experience to watch. Many students and even teachers were so excited they finally brought back Mr. Irish. Congratulations to Grant Fouts for being crowned Mr. Irish for the second year in a row!

Written By: Lucy Mast

SPRING MUSICAL

On April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, the Bishop McNamara Theater Program performed The Last Oz Story. The Last Oz Story is the sequel to The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum. Dorothy, played by Clare Steffes, has been admitted to a Kansas hospital for observation and tries to convince everyone that she really is Dorothy Gale, but no one believes her, especially Emma Tyndol, played by Michaela Richey, who is the social worker assigned to work with Dorothy. However, reporter Elise McKenna, played by Kelsey Miller, does all that she can to get the scoop on Dorothy. Back in Oz, a new witch has come to town- Peloros, played by Shelby Corbett, and since she arrived, everything has gone haywire. When Dorothy returns to Oz, she sees how her friends have changed. For example, the Tin Woodman, also played by Michaela Richey, has become too sensitive and worries about everything, The Lion, played by Ethan Jackson, has become too courageous and acts recklessly to prove it, and the Scarecrow, played by Zachary Curtis, is now King of Oz. With time running out, Dorothy must find a way to help her friends before it's too late.

HOME OF THE FIGHTIN' IRISH



April 2022 Athlete & Teacher Spotlights

This fun cast was directed by Sharla Ronchetto and were taught music by Terri Jones. Many fun memories were made working with both high school students and junior high students and lots of laughs had by all. Being a senior, this show has been a blast and I am glad that it was my final one!



Cast

Dorothy Gale

Clare Steffes '22

Emma Tyndol / Tin Woodman

Michaela Richey '22

Nurse Leone / Courageous Lion

Ethan Jackson '24

Dr. Strohman / Scarecrow

Zach Curtis '22

Elise McKenna

Kelsey Miller '22

Glinda

Izzy Quigley '24

Peloros

Shelby Corbett '22

Ensemble

Sean Quigley '28, Hailey Neil '25, Sara Fernández '22, Emma VanVoorst '27

Written By: Michaela Richey

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

This month's athlete spotlight is senior baseball player, Nolan Czako! Nolan grew up in Bourbonnais, Illinois, and has been involved in sports from a very young age. He started playing baseball at the age of four and hasn't stopped since. When he was younger, he was also the water boy for the girls' high school basketball team.

This fueled his passion for sports, which led him to playing both basketball and baseball throughout high school – and soon, college. He is decorated in both sports – a three time all-area and all-conference player for basketball, and this past year, all-area and all-conference for baseball.

Nolan has played not only school baseball, but also travel baseball, from the age of 8 to 18. He played mostly shortstop throughout his baseball career, however, this year at McNamara, he will be a third baseman, which he will continue in college. He is committed to Millikin University to play baseball and plans to study business. Best of luck to Nolan and the Irish Baseball Team this year!



Written By: Ava Brosseau

TEACHER INTERVIEW

This month's teacher interview was with Mrs. Ikins. She is a teacher that does a little bit of everything around here. She does whatever she has to do. Although, her prime positions here at Mac are endorsements in Language arts and technology as the resource teacher. Mrs. Ikins grew up in New Lenox and attended Lincoln-Way Central High School. After high school, she attended the College of St. Francis in Joliet which is now known as the University of St. Francis. Mrs. Ikins obtained her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, special education endorsement and several middle school endorsements. She then continued her education at Concordia University in Chicago for her master's as an Educational Technology Specialist. How Mrs. Ikins knew she wanted to be a teacher was when she visited St. Francis on a science nuclear medicine day.

She knew she wanted to go there but she did not like their science department. She earned her early teaching skills from teaching weekends at Michael's Craft Stores.

She knew teaching was for her because if she was not teaching, she felt like a part of her was missing. She said, "So you know you're doing the right thing if you're not doing it and a part of you is missing". Due to her special education endorsement, she can teach Kindergarten through 12th grade. With her endorsement in technology, she can oversee a district. At the previous school she was at she was an English teacher and worked with curriculum development and technology. She also used to be an Elementary teacher. She had to wear a lot of hats and we are very appreciative to have Mrs. Ikins here at Bishop McNamara with all she does.



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Poms, Sports, & Movies

She subbed for many years when her kids were little. She took every classroom and did not care what she took. Since she has an art minor, she can run all equipment and knows how to weld. Outside of teaching, Mrs. Ikins does a lot more art. A piece of advice Mrs. Ikins would like to leave us with is "Decide where you want to go, figure out how you want to get there and work towards it."



Written By: Leah Wilson

POMS TRYOUTS

Get your calendars ready! The Mac Poms Team is holding tryouts for the 2022 football season on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th from 3-5pm in the Bishop McNamara Highschool gym.

The poms team performs school song and at halftime for all home varsity football games. The dance team is co-ed and encourages any incoming freshman, sophomores, juniors, or seniors to try out. For more information as well as any changes or updates follow the Mac Poms Facebook and Instagram pages @bishopmacpoms.

Written By: Lucy Mast

MARCH MADNESS RECAP

In a year of storylines, bluebloods, and even a historical Cinderella, we see Kansas end the year as our National Champions. With this

being our last year of seeing one of the greatest coaches ever, Coach K, many were looking to see Duke win the Championship. Although they did put together a fantastic run, they fell just short, losing to their rival North Carolina by a score of 81-77 in the Final Four. North Carolina would go on to fall just short by losing to Kansas in the final by a score of 72-69 in an electrifying game that had all spectators on the edge of their seats. Even through the amazing storylines of bluebloods dominating the tournament field this year, we see another storyline prevail. Kentucky, who was a favorite of many entering the tournament, squared off against a 15 seed in Saint Peters, a school many may have not heard of before this game. This game was back and forth until the end, where Saint Peters would prevail in an 85-79 overtime victory. This would not be the end of their story, as they would go on to be the first 15 seed in college basketball history to reach the Elite 8. On their journey, they encountered Murray St, as well as another powerhouse in Purdue. These victories came by margins of ten and three points. Although many wanted to see them make it further, their Cinderella run of glory came to an end when they were shelled by North Carolina, 69-49.



Written By: Carter Levesque

THE DARKER KNIGHT: THE BATMAN (2022) REVIEW

Coming off the amazing Christopher Nolan Batman trilogy (Batman Begins, The Dark Knight, and The Dark Knight Rises), The Batman had a lot to live up

to. And while it fails in some respects, overall, most fans will gladly accept this new rendition of the crime-fighting hero to sit alongside its predecessors. For starters, Robert Pattinson does a terrific job conveying the type of Batman director Matt Reeves had envisioned. The hero has always been "dark and brooding", however, the director bumps it up a notch and makes Bruce Wayne (Batman) essentially a recluse to society. He rarely leaves his home outside of his job as a vigilante, and he only makes an appearance when it is absolutely necessary. On top of that, when he's put in social situations, he's very quiet and awkward, unlike Christopher Nolan's Bruce Wayne that we've come to know. Some may like this more timid, diffident side of the character, and while I understand why, it's not my favorite portrayal of the vigilante. I found it interesting in the Christopher Nolan trilogy how Bruce Wayne was able to divert the assumption of his being Batman with all his riches, parties, butlers, women, etc. No one would ever guess he was Batman. However, in The Batman, Bruce Wayne's being a recluse really makes his identity obvious, and it's a wonder no one had figured it out during the 3-hour duration of the film. All things considered, Robert Pattinson still does a very good job with what he was given to work with, and his performance fits perfectly into the world Matt Reeves has created.

Just like Pattinson's Batman, the world of this film is darker than ever, both metaphorically and in terms of lighting (no joke, I'm convinced the sun doesn't even exist in The Batman's universe). Where the Christopher Nolan series was more about crime-fighting action, Matt Reeves's rendition is focused primarily on mystery. So, if you or a loved one were

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Extras

just waiting for that Detective Batman movie, here it is. Whenever a crime happened, a group of police joined by Batman were on the case. That may sound a little silly, but I have to say, I absolutely dug this aspect of the movie. I'm a personal sucker for detective shows, and this was a perfect blend of everything I love from those shows, as well as the superhero action we've come to love. It's definitely a breath of fresh air for the world of superhero movies, for it seems like studios just keep putting out the same film over and over again with different franchises.

The characters in The Batman were the same personalities we've seen associated with Batman ever since his comic debut: Riddler (Paul Dano), Penguin (Colin Farrel), Carmine Falcone (John Turturro), Alfred (Andy Serkis), James Gordon (Jeffrey Wright), Catwoman (Zoë Kravitz), etc. And let me say, these castings were incredible, especially Colin Farrel as Penguin. Out of all these characters, though, my least favorite had to be Zoë Kravitz's Catwoman. I'm not sure if I just don't like the anti-hero, I wasn't a fan of Kravitz's performance, or all of the above. She started off strong, but got annoying throughout the duration of the film, and I eventually got tired of her being on screen, but I digress.

There's a lot more to talk about, but quite frankly, I'm not even on the newspaper team and I want to be done. The originality alone of The Batman is enough to warrant the praise the film is getting from both critics and audiences alike, let alone the diverse cast of characters that drive the whole experience. All in all, if you're a superhero fan who's been waiting to watch the next big superhero movie, please don't sleep on this one, you'll thank me later.

Personal Score: 85%

Written By: Christian Provost

APRIL MOTIVATION

"God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens."

Ephesians 1:20

"The Christ will suffer and raise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name."

Luke 24:46-47

"He is not here he is risen just as he said."

Matthew 28:6

"We live and die; Christ died and lived!"

John Stott

"By his wounds we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Hebrews 13:8

"Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand."

Oprah Winfrey

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

Unknown

Compiled By: Lucy Mast

April 2022 Extras

WORD SEARCH AND SUDOKU

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 W O B L O O M I N G A C O T I

- chocolate
- butterfly
- flowers
- easter
- basket
- bunny
- blooming
- rainbow
- rain
- eggs

Created By: Kenna Brosseau

CREDITS



Formatted By: Grant Naese



Edited By: Ava Brosseau



Sponsored By: Katherine Kozlik