



# The Blarney Stone



## October 2022 Homecoming & Halloween Edition

### HOMECOMING 2022



September 12<sup>th</sup> to September 16<sup>th</sup> was this year's homecoming week. It was a week full of fun, festivities, and community for all in our school. Monday was mass day, with the entire school practicing mass together. Tuesday and Wednesday were both themed dress-up days: dad day and onesie day, respectively. Thursday was class games day where each class competed against one another in games. The seniors won games day and led the celebration with their class dance and theme: construction! Additionally, the homecoming bonfire and crowning of our queen, Grace Purcell, took place Thursday night. Finally, on Friday it was extreme and throwback spirit day, with our homecoming football game taking place that night! The homecoming dance took place on Saturday night, being 1920s-themed as a throwback for our 100-year celebration!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

As we make our way through October, the school year is well underway. Upcoming events for this year include the 100-year gala on November 12<sup>th</sup>, featuring dinner

and the yearly Bishop McNamara Auction! Additionally, Halloween is well on its way, with students being able to dress up and participate in the upcoming costume contest! A late start will take place on October 28<sup>th</sup> for the High School and during the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be open house tours of both the Junior High and High School. If you are interested in an open house tour, contact Dawn Akerman in the school's advancement office (email: [dakerman@bmcss.org](mailto:dakerman@bmcss.org)). We would love to have you!

### 100-YEAR GALA & AUCTION



As mentioned above, this year Bishop McNamara will be hosting its 100-year gala and auction on November 12<sup>th</sup>! This event will consist of dinner, the auction itself, as well as a night of fun for all who are attending! If you

are interested in going, please head over to the Bishop McNamara website and find our 100-year gala registration (found at <https://www.bishopmac.com/support/100yeargala>). Pictured above is the yearly auction puppy which will be up for bidding on the 12<sup>th</sup>!



Written By: Grant Naese  
**HOMECOMING COURT**

After a fun homecoming week of games and out-of-uniform days, the high schoolers attended homecoming! The dance's theme was the 1920's in honor of Bishop McNamara's 100th year. The cafeteria was decorated with



## October 2022 Homecoming Recap & Fall Sports

black and gold decor taking us back through time. The DJ was great and the dance floor was extremely lively. Congratulations to our **Homecoming Queen Grace Purcell** as well as to the 2022 Homecoming Court:

**Freshmen**

Rubeigh Turro & Reagan Kaner

**Sophomores**

Claire Goselin & Brynn Provost

**Juniors**

Clara Nugent & Mackenzie McCammon

**Seniors**

Grace Edwards, Lucy Mast, Ellery Rohr, and Krista Surprenant

### POMS & GUYRISH

The poms celebrated homecoming week with guyrish. An annual tradition where the poms team taught the guys a dance that they performed together at the homecoming game. The theme of guyrish this year was dancing through the decades. The guys did a great job. The poms team would like to thank Luke Christie, Cole Smidt, Ethan Patel, Drake Smith, Jack Jeck, Grant Naese, Christian provost, Drew Willis, Mason McCue, Hunter Phillips, Justice Provost, and Ryan Sarkozi for participating in guyrish. The Mac Poms Team also had a Nothing Bundt Cakes sale and would like to thank all who support the team by purchasing a Bundt Cake! If you are interested in trying out for the competition team, please email our poms Coach Nikki Bennett (email:

[nbennett@bmcss.org](mailto:nbennett@bmcss.org)) There will be a parent meeting on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Tryouts will be held the following week starting on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm-6 pm, Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 pm, and Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 3 pm. Don't forget to go follow the Bishop McNamara Poms on both Instagram and Facebook: @bishopmacpoms

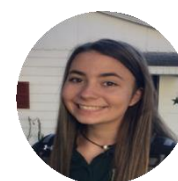


Written By: Lucy Mast

### VOLLEYBALL

To recap how the Bishop McNamara Girls' volleyball season is going their record is 10-5. In their Conference, they are 4-2. At home, they have won four games and lost 3 games. Away, they have won three games and lost two. I also talked with middle hitter senior Natalie Prairie. Natalie says that she thinks the season is going well but thinks that they can play better and still have room to improve and get better as a team. As the volleyball team is approaching Regionals, she says she is "looking for them to work as a team and to do their best and try to reach their full potential before going into the postseason."

She says that one of the most challenging teams they have played this season was Kankakee because it was so close. As well as Riverside Brookfield because It was a close game all the way to the end, and it was a big conference win. Providence Catholic was another challenging game because they are a good team and pushed them. I asked Natalie how the student section impacts her and the rest of the team. She said that she personally blocks the student section out, but they are there to help her out and hyper her up. She also said for the team, "It helps the team collectively when we have a loud student section. We feed off their energy which helps". Good luck to our girls' volleyball team as they approach the end of their season!



Written By: Leah Wilson

### SOCCER

The varsity boys' soccer season has come to an end and their final record for the season was 7-13. Their conference record was 3-2 and they placed second in their conference. For home games, their record was 5-5 and for away games, they were 2-5. On Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, the soccer team played Coal City at home for the regional quarterfinals and won 6-1 to move on to the regional semifinals against Grant Park. On Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, the boys played Grant Park in the rain and under slippery conditions the team



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lost 2-6 ending their season. After talking to Coach Acevedo about the season, he stated that the team was a mixed bag of talent and they were a fairly young team with 4 seniors, 3 juniors, 7 sophomores as well as 3 freshmen. He noted that the seniors, Axel Lopez, Jackson Mills, Kolton Hunt, and Carter Heinrich, had a key role in determining the success of the team and they had to set the pace for the other players. Acevedo was proud of the team for playing with heart and never giving up throughout the season, regardless of their record. Congratulations, to the varsity boys soccer team!

**Written By: Kolton Hunt**

## HALLOWEEN CRAFT



### Materials:

- 🍂 Pumpkin
- 🍂 Acrylic Paint
- 🍂 Paintbrush

**Step 1:** Decide on a pattern or design for your pumpkin.

**Step 2:** Using acrylics, paint ideas onto your pumpkin.

**Step 3:** Give as a gift or use as a cute decoration!



**Written By: Sarah Hoehn**

## PUMPKIN SPICE SEASON

It's officially fall! You know what that means, Starbucks has finally come out with their fall drinks. They have a pumpkin spice latte that you can get hot, iced, or as a Frappuccino, a pumpkin cream cold brew, and an apple crisp oat milk macchiato that you can get hot or iced. The pumpkin spice latte is delectable. It is great if you love a sweet fall drink. The pumpkin cream cold brew is a Starbucks classic. It is great for people that enjoy the strong taste of coffee. The apple crisp oat milk macchiato is similar to last year's apple crisp macchiato. The flavors are the same however last year it came with regular milk and this year it comes without milk. If you like pumpkin but don't want a super sweet drink, I highly recommend that you try a shaken espresso and add pumpkin sauce. I usually add three pumps for a Grande and five pumps for a Venti! Don't forget to go get yourself a fall drink from Starbucks this fall!



**Written By: Lucy Mast**

## HALLOWEEN HISTORY

Halloween's ancient origins date back to the Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts lived 2,000 years ago in modern-day Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Northern France. They would celebrate their new year on November 1st. They associated the following time of year with human death, they believed the night that came before (October 31<sup>st</sup>) the boundary between worlds would become blurred and the

ghosts of the dead would return to earth. The Celts believed that the presence would not only damage crops, but the spirits made it easier to make predictions of the future. Halloween first came to America when the beliefs of different European ethnic groups and the American Indians merged. The first celebrations were play parties, which were events that celebrated the harvest. When new immigrants came to America, especially the Irish the celebration of Halloween went nationwide.

**Written By: Riley Piazza**

## HOCUS POCUS 2 REVIEW

"The Witches Are Back!" On September 30, "Hocus Pocus 2", the sequel to the 1993 classic, was released on Disney+. In this film, the Sanderson sisters return when summoned by a new group of teenagers on Halloween. The lovable trio struggles to adapt to the modern world while plotting revenge against the townspeople who wronged them so long ago. This movie is full of laughs and hilarious musical performances. "Hocus Pocus 2" has not only found astounding success on Disney+, but its soundtrack has become immensely popular, as well! The soundtrack is currently sitting at #15 on the charts with a 4.5-star rating. This movie pays homage to its predecessor while standing out with its own plot and new characters. But don't worry! All three actresses who portray the Sanderson sisters have returned for this sequel! If you are looking for 1 hour and 47 minutes of Halloween fun, "Hocus Pocus 2" is the perfect movie for you!

**Written By: Anna Dexter**

## HOUSE RECAP

This month, many House System events took place. The first event that occurred on October 1<sup>st</sup>, was our annual Flag Football Tournament. In our House Flag Football Tournament, Limerick secured the first-place spot, and then following

was Donegal, Killarney, Waterford, then Dublin in last. We also held a new event this year, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. For this event, we decorated doors, throughout the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, which were inspired by Spanish-speaking countries. Limerick ended up winning the event, followed by Killarney, Waterford, Dublin, then Donegal in last. Finally, we had our annual Scarecrow decorating contest. Limerick did a Werewolf, Dublin did Frankenstein, Donegal did a Mummy, Killarney did a Vampire and Waterford did a Zombie.

**Written By: Ethan Patel**

## STAFF INTERVIEW: MR. HAWKINS

Mr. Hawkins teaches certain math subjects at our school. But Mr. Hawkins did not always teach math. Mr. Hawkins attended and graduated from Illinois State. He graduated from Illinois State in 1988 and he started pursuing his career. Before Mr. Hawkins started teaching at Mac, he was a teacher at Leo High School in Chicago. He has been teaching for a total of 15 years although his teaching was on and off. In between teaching he was also a salesman and sold orthodontic braces and he worked in gas station management. Mr. Hawkins started teaching math because his favorite teacher, Mr. McGalaughlin, taught math and Mr. Hawkins fell in love with math. He still thinks about his math teacher when he teaches. Mr. Hawkins has always taught math and thinks he will continue to teach math. Mr. Hawkins did not just come to Mac because they asked him to, he thought God was telling him to go back to teaching and what better place to teach than at Mac, a catholic school. Mr. Hawkins loves teaching at Mac and plans to teach at Mac until he retires.

**Written By: Miles Serpe**

## STAFF INTERVIEW: MRS. ELVIR

Mrs. Elvir is the Director of Student Success here at Bishop McNamara. She leads and guides students and parents to thrive academically. She also breaks down the language/cultural barrier for students and parents whose first language isn't English. Being bilingual, she helps to translate and teach values and practices to students and parents that help them be the best student or parents of a student they could be. Mrs. Elvir values her bilingual talent and uses it to positively affect many people, but she didn't always enjoy being bilingual. Mrs. Elvir was born in Mexico City and immigrated to the U.S when she was



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## House and Teacher/Alumni Interviews

Only 14 years old. Spanish was her first language, and it was hard to be in an English-speaking environment when she didn't understand the language. Her dad lived in poverty and was taken out of school in 2nd grade to work and help provide for his family and her mother was taken out of 8th grade for the same reason. Mrs. Elvir had nobody to ask for school help at home, which can be a common situation for some students she helps. She began to see being bilingual as a curse because of this. Mrs. Elvir stated it made her angry at God for not making her born as an American and making her born a Hispanic. Throughout this, she started to seek help from her teachers and directors at her high school. Mrs. Elvir stated that if her school directors and teachers did not help and guide her, she wouldn't be in the position she is in today and wouldn't have pursued higher education. After high school, she was inspired to teach because of the happiness that teaching in a CCD class brought her. Today, Mrs. Elvir doesn't view being bilingual as a curse, she views it as a gift. She uses it and her talent for teaching and guiding to lead students and parents into a brighter future. When asked what she would say to her past self, Mrs. Elvir said that she would tell herself to glorify being bilingual and that it is a superpower, not a curse. Throughout the day, Mrs. Elvir helps kids in a similar situation she was in to succeed and find their talents. She looks at them as a human, not a student, first and then finds the motivation and talents that they have to succeed. She has a quote on her wall that I believe sums up her and the vision she has for the people she helps. The quote is: "If you are what you are meant to be you will set the world on fire." She helps her students set the world on fire with their passion and success.

**Written By: Oliver Heinrich**

## ALUMNI INTERVIEW: REBECCA CZERNIK

In this next alumni interview, I sat down with Rebecca Czernik, also known as Ms. Czernik to her students. In her role as a teacher in the Jr. High, she can pass on McNamara traditions from her high school experience, all

while creating a welcoming and caring classroom environment. Ms. Czernik graduated from Bishop McNamara in 1994. While in high school, she participated in many sports, like track, cross country, and Poms. She was also a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. Finally, she also danced outside of school at Paula Aubrey. Her favorite part about McNamara was the family atmosphere and sense of tradition that she felt. "When we would compete in athletics or when we would compete in academic competitions, just the overall day was such a family atmosphere that I knew was different and unique." She also adds that the religious aspect and being able to celebrate the Eucharist with her classmates was such a special time. Not only is Ms. Czernik a graduate of Bishop McNamara, but she is also a teacher in the Jr. High. As a teacher, Ms. Czernik has a unique perspective on how new improvements have shaped the school. "I would definitely say the technology has improved greatly, and it has definitely enhanced the overall academic experience," she said. "Also, some major updates to the gym and other facilities have enhanced the overall McNamara experience." Not only can she see how things have changed, but also how we have stayed true to our roots as a school. "I'm impressed over the years how things have changed and how they've expanded, and also how things in terms of traditions are reserved and have remained unchanged."

**Written By: Sarah Berg**

## 175 YEARS OF MBVM

Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church is the oldest church in the Kankakee and Bourbonnais area. The church was constructed in the mid-1800s. The original Church burned down in 1854 and left over 100 families without a church for years. Father Lebel was the pastor at the time who wanted to reconstruct the Church, though he did not have the funds to construct a new church in its place. This left the parishioners to take it upon

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## House & Reviews

themselves to construct the church using volunteer labor. They drew stone from riverbeds and quarries and hauled it through muddy dirt roads. The construction was started in 1855-1856 and was finished in 1858. Since the church has been open, and it has gone through multiple interior changes and the community built around it changed greatly.

**Written By: Riley Piazza**

### 5SOS5 ALBUM REVIEW

On September 23, 5 Seconds of Summer released their 5th album, titled "5SOS5." The band has skyrocketed into popularity in recent years due to their hit singles "She Looks So Perfect", "Youngblood", and "Ghost of You." In their newest album, 5 Seconds of Summer gifted us with their longest tracklist yet, with 19 songs included. This album has a different aesthetic than other 5SOS albums. 5SOS has converted from punk rock to pop rock to a current indie rock sound. Many of the songs in this album include fast-paced rhythms and impactful lyrics. If you are looking for songs to jam to, give a listen to "Easy For You To Say" or "BLENDER." If you are looking for a cry session, you may enjoy "CAROUSEL" or "Older." "5SOS5" is currently sitting at #28 on the charts with a 5-star rating. Needless to say, this album is definitely worth your attention!

**Written By: Anna Dexter**

### TOP GUN: MAVERICK REVIEW

"You've been called back to Top Gun". Maverick is the sequel to the original Top Gun which was released in 1986, 36 years ago. Maverick made \$1.35 billion at the box office worldwide. The movie was highly popular, which is reflected in its scores of a 96% critic score and a 99% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. Maverick follows Pete Mitchell, played by Tom Cruise as he returns to the U.S. Navy-Fighter Weapons School "TOP GUN" as an instructor. While Maverick is there, he must train an elite group of fighter pilots to fly on a top-secret mission. He has history with one of the student pilots, Rooster, played by Miles Teller, the son of Maverick's best friend Goose, who was killed in the 1986 film. In the movie, Cruise flew his own planes including the P-51 Mustang. As far as sequels go, Maverick did a fantastic job of connecting the story to the original Top Gun, even with the two movies being decades apart. It had a familiar, yet new storyline and plenty of action, romance, and drama. Top Gun: Maverick is still available to watch in theaters or it is available to buy on Amazon Prime Video and VUDU.

**Written By: Hailey Neill**

### LOTR: THE RINGS OF POWER REVIEW

The Amazon Lord of the Rings series is an adaptation of the Middle Earth legendarium written by J.R.R Tolkien. In recent months the show has stirred up a large amount of controversy with some of the choices made in the casting, directing, and storytelling. With the first two episodes airing September 1st fans all over the world had a lot to say on social media platforms. The audience was divided into two, the super fans, and the casual views. If you are a

casual viewer then the show is an epic tale between multiple characters and a journey to save Middle Earth, if you are a superfan of the books and other film adaptations, then you might have more to say about the show. The directors have failed to keep truthful to the books in multiple aspects, the storytelling and even the characters themselves. The first two episodes though have not given the fans enough to base the rest of the season, and even upcoming seasons off.

**Written By: Riley Piazza**

### MTV UNPLUGGED NIRVANA ALBUM REVIEW

Formed in 1986 by singer Kurt Cobain and bassist Krist Novoselic, Nirvana came to local fame in 1989 with their debut album "Bleach". This album got them touring with other grunge acts like TAD. They even went overseas to Europe. In 1991, they became a household name with their breakout album "Nevermind". Many of their most popular songs came from this album. In 1992 they released a compilation of B-sides and outtakes called "Incesticide". On September 21, 1993, they released what would be their final studio album, "In Utero". This album contained more of their most popular songs. Two months later, the band and their new touring guitarist, Pat Smear, and the Meat Puppets went into the Sony Music Studio in New York and recorded their legendary MTV Unplugged performance. It was aired on national television on December 16, 1993. Unfortunately, Kurt would pass roughly four months later at the age of 27. The album would be released on the 1st of November 1994. To begin the acoustic performance, Kurt announced to the crowd, "This is off our first record. Most people don't own it". The band then immediately launched into "About a Girl". This was the third track on their debut album "Bleach". It was written about Kurt's ex-girlfriend, Tracy Marander. After that, they played "Come as You Are". It was the third track off of the aforementioned "Nevermind". They then played a cover of a song by The Vaselines called "Jesus Don't Want Me for a Sunbeam". Then, they played a Bowie song called "The Man Who Sold the World". The next song is called "Dumb", from the album, "In Utero". The last song on that side of the LP is "Polly". It was inspired by a horrific newspaper article Kurt read in the early 90s. It is written from the perspective of a criminal who was caught and convicted. Side two starts off with "On a Plain". The song is a very odd one. Its lyrics have no meaning, and the chords are quite fun to play. It is followed by "Something in the Way", which was the last song on "Nevermind". It is a melancholy song that describes a story that happened to Kurt. He was a homeless Aberdeen teen and had no choice but to sleep under a bridge. That is a very prominent lyric in the song. At this point, Kurt called the Meat Puppets onto the stage. He started this section of the set by singing their song "Plateau", and after that, "Oh Me". The final Meat Puppets song that was played in the set was "Lake of Fire", which ponders the afterlife. Then, "Where do bad folks go when they die? They don't go to Heaven, where the angels fly". The next song is called "All Apologies" - another odd song in a similar tuning to "On a Plain". The final song, "Where Did You Sleep Last Night", concludes this set in an explosive way. It starts off in a mournful tone, telling the story of a man whose wife has been unfaithful. The verse tells what happened to him after he finds out. The song concludes with Kurt letting loose and screaming the lyrics of the chorus at the top of his lungs. He completely disregards his future as a vocalist and provides this Lead Belly song the punch that it needed. The Performance at MTV Unplugged would go down in history as the best of the unplugged

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sessions. Some other acts that have been on the show are Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, John Mellencamp, Paul McCartney, etc. They all gave great performances, but they aren't as iconic as Nirvana.

**Written By: Walter Krause**

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

This summer, the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) got to work at Kankakee High School. YEP hired a semi-large group of high school students to become mentors for the Summer Fun Program. These students went through several types of training, including academic training and Theraplay training, to prepare them for a long and exciting summer. Each student was assigned to one or two kids, between 4th-8th grade, to mentor them in reading and to teach them life skills. Each day the students led group activities in each of 4 classrooms that went along with the life lesson they would learn shortly after their activity. Then after the group lesson, the kids broke off from the group and went to read with their mentors. After lunch, the students went outside and drove RC cars, which were used to teach them life lessons, such as "control is better than speed" and "choose your pit crew wisely." Then after driving the RC cars, the students walked their kid to the bus or to their parent's car and said goodbye, until the next day of course. The high school students selected for this were the first teenagers to ever be mentors in this program. They were also the first to be trained by Theraplay, or therapy through play. The Daily Journal wrote a few articles about what they were doing in this program. Two students from the Mac family were among the few selected for this program.

**Written By: Laura Moore**

## MOTIVATION

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

**- Ephesians 5:11**

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

**- 1 Peter 5:8**

"Just because we fell one time doesn't mean we can't get up and let our light shine."

**- Duane Chapman**

"People who fall the hardest, bounce back the highest."

**- Nishan Panwar**

"Don't let past ghosts spook away present gifts"

**- Jane Lee Logan**

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!"

**- Psalm 34:8**

## WORD SEARCH & SUDOKU

### WORD SEARCH

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APPLE CAULDRON FALL GHOST  
HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE LEAF PUMPKIN  
SCARECROW SKELETON SPIDER TOMBSTONE

### SUDOKU

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## CREDITS



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