



The Blarney Stone



February 2023 Valentine's Day & Winter Ball Edition

FEBRUARY 2023 EDITION

Welcome to the February 2023 Issue of the Blarney Stone, the official newspaper of Bishop McNamara Catholic School! As we push on into 2023, we celebrate Valentine's Day, Black History Month, and host this year's winter ball! This past week we hosted the school annual winter ball and are concluding Black History month. Two weeks ago, we also celebrated Valentine's Day, as well as had our Senior Night Basketball Game! In this edition, you'll also find a variety of articles that highlight the events and activities taking place in the coming weeks. These include the upcoming Track Season, Tennis Season, conclusion of Scholastic bowl, bowling, and the upcoming Spring Games! This month was lively and full of interesting and fun events all around for the school.



Written By: Grant Naese

SENIOR NIGHT BASKETBALL GAME

On Friday, February 3rd, Bishop McNamara Catholic School's varsity basketball team took to the court for their senior night game against Ridgewood. The atmosphere was electric as fans filled the stands to support their beloved Irish, who were looking to secure a victory on this special occasion.

The game was fast paced from the very start, with both teams showing great energy and skill on the court. The Irish, led by their seniors Isiah Davis and Jackson Provost, were determined to put on a show for their fans and make the night a memorable one.

Davis and Provost, who were honored before the game for their hard work and dedication to the team, played with passion and intensity. Davis made some impressive drives to the basket, while Provost showed off his outside shooting skills, sinking several crucial three-pointers.

The game was closely contested throughout, with both teams trading baskets and playing tough defense. However, it was the Irish who ultimately came out on top.

The win was a fitting end to a memorable night for Bishop McNamara Catholic School, as they celebrated the achievements of their seniors and secured an important victory in the process. With regionals now on the radar, the Irish will look to build on this momentum and continue their winning ways.

Written By: Grant Naese

VALENTINE'S DAY



This year, Bishop McNamara honored Valentine's Day with a fundraiser for the school's annual Winter Ball dance. This contributed to the dance's budget, allowing the House Heads and Prefects to make it a truly special event. Additionally, we celebrate the



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Valentine's Day, Winter Ball, & Guyrish

day in honor of St. Valentine, an inspirational figure to our Catholic Faith here at Bishop McNamara.

Written By: Grant Naese

WINTER BALL

Saturday, February 25th was this year's Winter Ball school dance! The theme this time around was Welcome to the Jungle. The cafeteria was decorated vividly, with vines and trees dotted about to really make it feel like you were in the jungle. Additionally, this year LED lights which lit up to the music were added above the dance to bring the whole thing together.

The theme of "Welcome to the Jungle" was a perfect opportunity for everyone to break out their wildest jungle-inspired dance moves. We saw lots of leopard prints, jungle greens, and safari-inspired looks as decoration.

The dance featured DJ Jason Neuman who brought plenty of lively and fun music, with something for everyone at some point throughout the dance.

Finally, we saw the winter ball court honored at the end of the dance. The court featured Freshmen Tucker Inman and Callaghan O'Connor, Sophomores Ethan Glidewell and Dominic Panozzo, Juniors Grant Naese and Liam McGrath, and finally Seniors Mason Alberts, Kolton Hunt, Sam Verrill, Keegan Cole, and Ethan Patel.



Above, you can photos of this year's winter ball court!



Written By: Grant Naese

GUYRISH & POMS

During the Senior Night Game, on Friday February 3rd the Poms team performed the annual Basketball Guyrish dance with some of the boys from our school. This year's Guyrish included Mason Alberts, Drake Smith,

Axel Lopez, Mason McCue, Nik Acevedo, Eamon O'Brian, and Grant Naese. The team would like to thank all the boys who participated in Guyrish. Guyrish is an annual tradition done on senior night. This year the theme was models and paparazzi. Thank you to those who participated!



Written By: Lucy Mast



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Catholic Schools Week & Sports

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The first week of February was Catholic Schools Week for all Catholic Schools around the world. This week is very special to our school. Most notably, it featured the annual one picture, however this year in honor of the 100-year centennial, all our students were put into the formation of a 100 as opposed to the traditional "MAC" formation from past years. The week also consisted of many other exciting things for our school, including service opportunities, the teacher dance, and much more. To end off the week, the school hosted the Senior night basketball game as well as the Guyrish dance, as mentioned previously!



Written By: Grant Naese

POMS

The 2022 to 2023 Bishop McNamara competitive poms season has come to an end. The girls have worked hard throughout the summer, football season, basketball season, and competition season. The team qualified for IDTA state, placing 4th in the A Hip-Hop Division! The girls are thankful for the season and can't wait

for next year! Now that the season has come to an end, coaches are working hard to prepare for the 2023 football season. To keep up to date with the new information about tryouts follow the Bishop McNamara Poms Team on social media @bishopmacpoms.

The Lady Irish have continued this season strong and are continuing their season with a bang. They have won a total of 13 games this season and are continuing to make waves this season. A few sophomores have made a stand this season, such as Trinity Davis, Emily Storer, and Lydia Nugent. Along with our newer members, returning juniors and seniors are also working hard to make this a great season. Join our girls in the upcoming weeks to see them face off against Elmwood Park, Palos Heights, and Ridgewood.



Written By: Lucy Mast

GIRLS BASKETBALL

After an incredibly successful season and a post-season run, the Girls' Basketball team is done for the school year. This season marked the beginning of a new coaching era for the team, as former McNamara standout Khadaizha Sanders took on the position of Head Coach. The team

finished with an overall record of 20 wins and 13 losses. Towards the end of the season, the Irish found their stride winning several more games, and even captured the conference championship. This continued into the post-season, where the Irish made a promising run. They won 38-26 against Clifton Central in the Regional Semi-final, and then continued to make a dominant showing in their 50-14 victory against Oakwood in the Regional Championship. The Regional Championship marks the end of a 4-year drought, with the last regional title being claimed in 2019. However, the team's season came to an end in the Sectional Semifinal with a 56-33 loss to Fieldcrest. The team will graduate 5 seniors, who all made a big impact, but the team is still equipped with several key players. The Irish made a great showing this season and have proved that they are a program that should be taken seriously.



Written By: Sarah Berg

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Bishop McNamara Fightin' Irish basketball team has been making waves in the local high school sports scene lately. With a record of 18 wins and only 4 losses as of February 27th, they are poised to make a strong run in the playoffs.

Under the guidance of head coach Adrian Provost, the Fightin' Irish have



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been dominating their opponents with a combination of skill, teamwork, and determination. Coach Provost, who has been at the helm of the team for several years now, has built a strong program that emphasizes the fundamentals of the game and the importance of discipline and hard work.

Coach Provost has emphasized the importance of teamwork and the players have bought into that philosophy wholeheartedly. Everyone on the team has a role to play, whether it's setting screens, playing tough defense, or providing energy and support from the bench.

As the regular season winds down and the playoffs approach, the Fightin' Irish are looking to build on their success and make a deep run in the postseason. With their talent, teamwork, and coaching, they have the potential to go all the way and bring home a championship to Bishop McNamara.

Fans of high school basketball won't want to miss the Fightin' Irish in action. Be sure to keep up to date on the Irish Invasion Instagram page to keep updated on when their next game is!



Written By: Grant Naese

TRACK PREVIEW

With track season already upon us, athletes have been working hard preparing for the upcoming season. With training during the weekdays, a promising season is ahead of us. Bishop McNamara has introduced an indoor track season where athletes can begin conditioning and competing inside the school and on indoor tracks. This is a tremendous opportunity to also prepare for the outdoor season. If any student is interested in participating, it's not too late! You can contact Mr. Hamilton or Mr. Frier about the season and can begin practicing asap. Go Irish!



Written By: Isabelle Quigley

BOWLING RECAP

Bishop McNamara girls and boys bowling teams wrapped up their 2023 season at the beginning of February. The boys competed in all city on January 14th. The girls competed in their all-city game on January 30th. Both teams completed their season at regionals. The boys competed on January 14th, and they placed 14th. The girls competed on February 4th and placed 12th. The girls' top bowler

was Tori Torres who bowled a 180. Congratulations to the following bowlers who participated in regionals: Delanie Dalton, Tori Torres, Hailey Neill, Angie Martinez, Ericka Duarte, and Laura Moore. The girls finished with a team total of 3,101, what a great end to the 2022-2023 bowling season.



Written By: Hailey Neill

SCHOLASTIC BOWL RECAP

The Bishop McNamara Scholastic Bowl team has completed its season. Their last game was on Saturday, February 25 at the Metro-Suburban Conference Tournament at Timothy Christian. Although the team was small, they made some good showings against top teams in both the league and the state, as well as some wins against other conference members. Additionally, Team Captain Mason Alberts finished in the Conference Top-10 for questions answered. Congrats to the Irish Scholastic Bowl team on a very successful season.



Written By: Sarah Berg

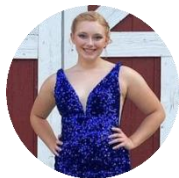
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Sports & Academics



MARCH ACT



On Thursday, January 26th the ACT Workshop took place! This workshop was required for Juniors to attend but was offered to all students. During this workshop, students were taught about the layout of the ACT, the information presented on the exam, and useful ACT strategies, and will also be introduced to resources they can use to prepare for the exam. This workshop was a great resource for students who have never taken the ACT or those who need a refresher before taking their next exam. The school ACT will be taking place on March 28th and all Juniors will be taking it. If you are a Sophomore, remember if you are taking it or not and be sure to get to school on time!



Written By: Anna Dexter

UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS

Juniors at Bishop McNamara Catholic School, get ready for an exciting opportunity to explore some of the top colleges in the area! This Spring, the Guidance Office will be organizing field trips to various colleges within a reasonable distance from the school. This is a great opportunity for juniors to get a feel for different colleges and help them make informed decisions about their post-secondary education.

To help the Guidance Office plan these trips, a survey was posted to determine which colleges the junior class would most prefer to visit. The survey was found on the Irish Student Hub and was until next Friday, January 20th. It included a list of major colleges within driving distance and students were asked to rank their top 5 choices. Additionally, students could provide comments about other colleges they would be interested in visiting.

Some of the colleges that were included in the survey are: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois State University, Eastern Illinois University, Bradley University, Purdue University, Notre Dame, Northwestern, DePaul, and many more!

It's important to note that the Guidance Office will take into consideration the survey results as well as other factors such as location, size, and majors offered when deciding which colleges to visit. If you have any questions or comments, please contact

the Guidance Office.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to explore different colleges and start thinking about your future! Additionally, be sure to keep in mind that the ACT is coming up!



Written By: Grant Naese

ALUMNI INTERVIEW: BRADIE RYAN (VAUBEL)

In this next Irish Alumni Interview, I got to speak with Bradie Ryan. Mrs. Ryan has been at McNamara in multiple capacities, as a student, teacher, and administrator. She graduated in 2013, and then continued on to Purdue University. In 2017, she returned to McNamara as the 7th and 8th grade History teacher. Currently, she is the Assistant Principal of the Kankakee Site.

From her time as a student, Mrs. Ryan has many fond memories, however Homecoming is one of her favorites. "I think throughout all 4 years it was definitely homecoming week. We just had so much fun every single year, and by senior year everybody just gets along with everyone, so we all just had a great time. You know, having breakfast in the parking lot in the

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morning, the games, the dance, it was probably the most vivid memories I have.” McNamara not only provided her with lasting memories, but also with skills and a strong foundation for the future. “From a student aspect, it taught me about self-discipline, organization, being diligent in your work, being on time, and to stay focused on everything that matters. But for sports, too, it taught me how to be competitive and how to be a good team player.” The life skills developed through academics and athletics played a major role in her high school experience, but one aspect stood out overall: faith. “The faith aspect was important, learning how to grow in your faith and how to keep it close to you. Even when you leave here, you want to keep those qualities going, so I think it instilled it in me that these are important and that I would continue it throughout my life.”

As both a former student and a current staff member, Mrs. Ryan has a unique perspective on just how special McNamara is. “I think as a student, you know that you have great teachers and everything like that, but I think that being a teacher and an administrator you really get to see how much effort gets put into this place and how much love goes into it, and how we truly care about our kids having a great school experience, the behind the scenes.” Mrs. Ryan is one of the many hard-working people that makes Bishop Mac such a special place.



Written By: Sarah Berg

VALENTINE’S DAY CRAFT

Materials:

- Red and White Felt
- Scissors
- Needle
- Ribbon
- Heart Stencil
- Pen

Steps:

- Step 1:** Using heart stencil and pen, draw hearts on the felt.
- Step 2:** Cut out as many as you prefer.
- Step 3:** Thread the ribbon through the needle and sew the hearts together.
- Step 4:** Hang anywhere as a beautiful Valentine’s decoration!



Designed By: Sarah Hoehn

HISTORY OF VALENTINE’S DAY



Valentine’s Day is one of the most known holidays in the United States and other countries in the world. It is widely known for the exchanging of candy, flowers, and gifts between loved ones. But where does the origin of this holiday come from? The day originated by St. Valentine but not a lot of people know his story. The most notable of the

tales of St. Valentine is when Emperor Claudius II decided that men made better soldiers than husbands, so he outlawed marriage. St. Valentine realized how immoral this act was and would perform marriages for the young couples in secret. When Claudius heard of this, he had Valentine sentenced to death. Though another tale suggests that he was killed while helping Christians escape harsh conditions in Roman prison, again he was sentenced to death for his good deeds.



Written By: Riley Piazza

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



As February comes to an end, Bishop McNamara reflects on Black History Month celebrations. Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today. We remember the devotion and power from some of the most monumental figures in all of history, including Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, and Frederick Douglass. Bishop McNamara also celebrated this month with daily morning trivia questions about famous black figures that made positive impacts on the world. We hope nobody forgets the importance of this month all year long.



Written By: Maddie Russell



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HISTORY OF LENT

Lent is traditionally the time that we set aside time to fast, pray, and reflect so that we can be prepared for the resurrection of Jesus. Lent is one of the most enduring Christian holidays on the Liturgical Calendar. It is accepted that the 40-day period of lent originated from the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Though, the original 40-day period was much harsher and much more focused on fasting than anything. The fast was mainly focused on new converts to give them a time of repentance before they got to accept the resurrection of Jesus. Though the 40-day period that we know today as Lent, originated by Pope Gregory I.



Written By: Riley Piazza

LENTEN FASTING

As we enter the Lenten season everyone is either giving something up or trying to add more time for God to their schedule. Lent isn't just about giving something up or praying. Lent is about fasting like Jesus once had to. Obviously, Catholics are not allowed to eat meat on Fridays but that is not the only fasting during lent. Two other

days, being that of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Catholics must fast from all foods and eat smaller meals. On Ash Wednesday Catholics age 14+ are not supposed to eat any meat and Catholics age 18-59 must fast on Ash Wednesday as well as Good Friday, but lots of Catholics practice it no matter what their age is. Fasting doesn't just mean not eating food you can also fast from being your phone or fast from being involved something bad. God wants us to put time for him in the areas where we are fasting. Ultimately this shows a great respect to God and a great way to practice our Catholic faith.

Written By: Miles Serpe

ANT MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA REVIEW

Ant Man 3, the latest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, has once again followed the same formula that the studio has been relying on for years, resulting in a disappointing and anticlimactic mess. The movie starts off promisingly enough, with Scott Lang (Ant Man) facing off against a formidable villain, Kang. Kang is meant to be incredibly powerful, but unfortunately, the writers seem to have taken the easy way out by having him killed off too easily, with no real stakes or tension.

Adding to the film's issues is the fact that Scott Lang looks like he might

actually die at various points, but as is typical with the Marvel Cinematic Universe, he never does. This lack of stakes makes it hard to feel invested in the film's events, as the audience knows that the main characters will always make it out alive.

Another issue is the poorly executed storyline of M.O.D.O.K, who is given a plot that makes no sense and ends up feeling like an afterthought. The plot's lack of coherence makes it difficult to follow and detracts from the film's overall enjoyment.

Additionally, the over-reliance on the quantum realm as a plot device ends up being a cop-out for the fact that the film doesn't want to take any real risks with the real world. The quantum realm has become a convenient plot device for Marvel, and it seems that they are relying on it too heavily to avoid having any real stakes in their films.

Finally, the movie's use of CGI is excessive and takes away from the tangible technology that made the previous Ant Man films so enjoyable. The movie ends up feeling like a mess of special effects with no real substance, leaving the audience feeling underwhelmed and unsatisfied.

In conclusion, while Ant Man 3 has its moments, it ultimately falls victim to the Marvel Cinematic Universe formula and ends up being another unenjoyable and anticlimactic mess with no real stakes or tension. The film's reliance on the quantum realm as a plot device, poorly executed storylines, and excessive use of CGI leaves audiences feeling unimpressed and unsatisfied.

Written By: Grant Naese

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Extras & Credits

MOTIVATION

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”

– Pope Francis

“When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your father who sees in secret will repay you”.

– Matthew 6:6

“Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life.”

– Benedict XVI

“The one period of fasting should be passionately pursued.”

– Unknown

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”

– Psalms 51:10



Compiled By: Lucy Mast

WORD SEARCH & SUDOKU

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CANDY
CARDS
CHOCOLATE
CUPID
FLOWERS

FRIENDSHIP
GROUNDHOG
HEARTS
LOVE
PINK

RED
SWEETS

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