



The Blarney Stone



HAPPY
St. Patrick's
DAY

March 2023

St. Patrick's Day & Spring Edition

MARCH 2023 EDITION

Welcome to the March 2023 Issue of the Blarney Stone, the official newspaper of Bishop McNamara Catholic School! As we begin the Spring season, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the start of Spring sports, and much more! You'll find a variety of articles that highlight the events and activities taking place in the coming weeks. These include the upcoming Baseball Season, Volleyball Season, 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

ST. PATRICKS DAY

On Friday, March 17th, the school celebrated St. Patrick's Day with an out of uniform, as well as an event for adults and alumni of the school. As many may know, the school used to be called St. Patrick's High School before it was renamed to Bishop McNamara Catholic High School.

The connection to the Irish roots run deep in our school's legacy, with Bishop Martin D. McNamara, a man of Irish descent, being the one to facilitate the construction of our school.

Students dressed in their best Irish and St. Patrick's Day attire on St. Patrick's Day itself, enjoying an early dismissal. Following this, alumni and adults were invited to a St. Patrick's Day event where they celebrated our school.

MR. IRISH

Looking forward, we see our Irish connection link to the upcoming Mr. Irish competition this May. During this event, Junior students will be given the opportunity to compete to become next year's Mr. Irish. This role will make them the head of our school's student section and make them a friendly face for anyone to look up to. More information for this event is to come in the weeks following Spring Break, however everyone should mark their calendars for May 5th to be able to see this exciting event in person. It will take place at the end of the school day and we all hope you are excited!

KAIROS 53'

At the beginning of this March the annual Kairos retreat took place. This retreat is truly something special for our Junior class and takes place each year at the beginning of March. This year, Kairos was bigger and better than ever before, with a majority of the Junior class attending the retreat. Not much can be revealed about what happens during the event, however, all that the Sophomores need to know for this experience next year is that they will be in for a real treat. It is truly something special that has a lasting impact on each and every single retreatant, 53 Kairos retreats on. We look forward to seeing all our rising Sophomores next year and are excited for what they will get out of the retreat!

"The Junior class has a special retreat opportunity called Kairos (God's Time) – This retreat is four-days away with upper classmen (Juniors and Seniors) where students have a chance to go deep in prayer and personal reflection. After several years in high school, the Kairos retreat invites the students to arrive at a deeper self-awareness and self-acceptance as well as to reflect on and grow in one's relationship with God, with family, and with friends. Kairos is a very special retreat and memorable experience for our students."



March 2023 National Honors Society, Events, & Athletics

WEEK OF GIVING & PHONATHON

Monday, March 13th kicked off our annual week of giving with the Phonathon, where our school raises money for the Irish Fund. The Irish fund takes care of the daily operations of the school and greatly assists helping cover some of the money needed to continue operation. Students and alumni both attended the event, making calls to our generous donors all around the area. The event ended in the callers raising over \$40,000 for the school!

The importance of this event is especially highlighted by the 100-year centennial this year. Without the Phonathon and the Irish Fund, our school simply would not be possible. A big thank you goes out to all parents, alumni, and faculty who donate both time and money to continue the legacy.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

On Wednesday, March 15th the National Honors Society Inductions ceremony took place. It saw the hand off from the current seniors to the incoming juniors. President Anna Dexter and Cabinet members Krista Surprenant and Ava Brosseau handed their positions to President Grant Naese, Vice President Sarah Berg, and Secretary Christian Provost. The ceremony is always something special to witness, with each member of the National Honors Society

lighting their own candle to symbolize their induction. Above, you can see President Grant Naese and Secretary Christian Provost in a photo together. We look forward to the future accomplishments of all members of this year's national honors society and what they will do with the drive they have for excellency.



Written By: Grant Naese

TRACK

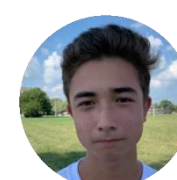
As we enter the spring, we also enter track season. The first meet is on Wednesday March 29th at BBCHS. Track has to do with many different types of events. Mr. Fryer will be coaching the distance runners, Mr. Forbes will be coaching the throwers, Coach Lade as well as Coach Mason will be coaching the sprinters, and Coach Jose is the head coach, but he mainly works with the distance runners. Make sure to come and support the track team this season!

Written By: Miles Serpe

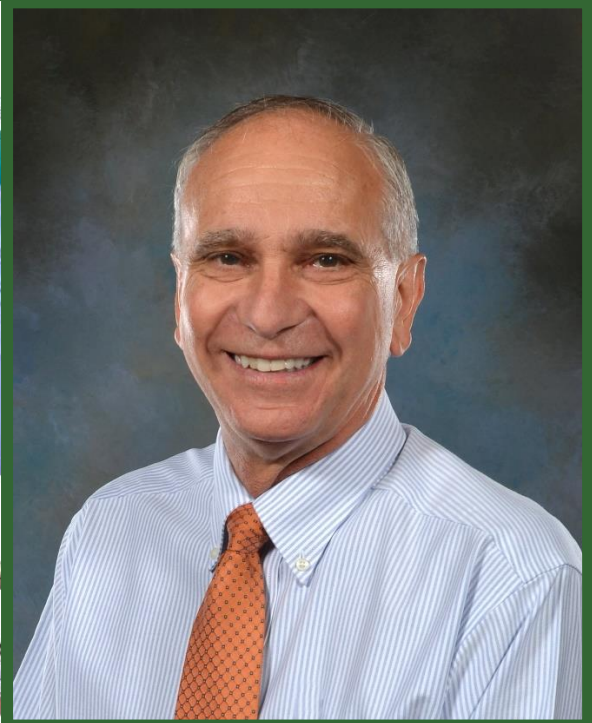
BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Bishop Mac Irish Boys Volleyball

Team has a varsity and JV team this year! After getting the program off the ground last year, the team has officially joined the IHSA to compete against other schools in the state. Although it was uncertain what the future of the program would look like after last year due to tight restrictions, they are now an official team competing in our region. The teams' first game is on April 4th and is an away match against Elmwood Park Highschool. Altogether, the varsity team has 10 games lined up this season and JV has 5 games lined up this season. Furthermore, there are a total of 18 boys on the team this year. With starters Carter Levesque, Nicholas Andrews, Evan Rauwolf, Eamon O'Brien, Abner Garcia, and Cole Schmidt for varsity the team is ready to pack a punch. With many returning and new faces it will be exciting to see where the team goes this season. For the fans, we look forward to seeing every single one of you at one of the home games to cheer our boys on as they look to upset the balance and make a statement this year. The regular season spans through April 4th to May 18th. Good luck to the Irish Boys Volleyball Team.



Written By: Kolton Hunt



March 2023 Athletics

BASEBALL

Baseball season is underway! The Bishop McNamara baseball team, led by coaches Kurt Quick and Arron Fuerst, have been working all winter for a very successful 2023 season. The players have been attending practices and team workouts to get ready for the season. Coach Quick is excited about the season and has lots of confidence in his team, as he says, "Let's go win a state title!", after their first practice.

The varsity club will be bringing up a few underclassmen who have proven to be an asset to the team. This includes freshman Callahan O'Connor, sophomore Taylor Fuerst, sophomore Dominic Panozzo, and sophomore Nathen Tieri (as of March 21, 2023). This season, there are enough players to have a freshman team, led by Coach Wes Andrews.

The first game of the season for the varsity club was played against Reed Custer at home. The game was an exciting start to their season. The lineup was as follows: Landon Provost (senior) at catcher, Mason McCue (junior) at shortstop, Dominic Panozzo (sophomore) at designated hitter for Callahan O'Connor, Michael O'Connor (senior) at pitcher, Jay Shires (junior) at right field, Boston Soucy (junior) at third base, Emmett Hays (junior) at center field, Jacob Langellier (senior) at left field, Taylor Fuerst (sophomore) at second base, and Callahan O'Connor at

first base and pitcher. Clayton Wyatt (junior) pitched the last inning for the Irish.

Wish the Irish baseball team good luck, as they continue with their season.



Written By: Mason McCue

HOUSE CUPCAKE WARS



This month, the House System is having their annual cupcake wars contest. This event is taking place on Saturday, April 1 at 5:00 p.m. This is a contest that students compete to create not only the best cupcakes, but the best display. Each house was given an animated film and must try and bring it alive, through these cupcakes. Limerick was given Alice in Wonderland, Killarney was given Toy Story, Dublin was given Monsters Inc, Waterford was given Kung Fu Panda, and Donegal was given Rio. Each house must create 3 different cupcakes. These cupcakes can be any

flavor and can be decorated to match the theme. A panel of judges will then be ranking the house's cupcakes. The winners will be announced in the next article!



Written By: Ethan Patel

STAFF INTERVIEW: TERRY GRANGER

Mr. Granger graduated from Bishop McNamara in 1976. While he was here, he was involved in several activities, including basketball, the letterman's club, Campus Ministry, and Christian Service. For his Christian service, he was one of the student's that went over to St. Theresa's Grade School to teach P.E., which inspired him to pursue teaching as a career. Service is only one of many fond memories that Mr. Granger had from his time as a student. Other memories include watching the football team in the first ever IHSA Playoffs, as well as Madcaps. "My senior year was the first year of the football playoffs. We made it, and we hosted a game here, and that was cool. As a fan, it was really neat to see. I think we ended up losing. The other thing I remember was madcaps. It was the big fundraiser, which we're going to reinstitute this year for a weekend. But that was a huge production. I can remember as a kid working at madcaps, and that was always a neat time to see people in the community come out and see the different shows. We would hold signs for groups, so we



March 2023 Interviews & Academics

got to stay and watch the show.” Mr. Granger’s best memories of his time here are ones that can still be experienced by current students.

Mr. Granger was so moved by his high school experience that his major goal was to return to McNamara to teach. “As a teacher, that’s always what I wanted to do. I wanted to come back, and I wanted to teach and coach. So, when I graduated in 1980, I immediately came here. I was fortunate enough to be hired. I was coaching 3 sports: football, basketball, and baseball. So, I was busy, but that was the goal. This was home, and I wanted to come back.” However, his plan never led to him becoming an administrator. “I never thought in a million years I would be sitting here. After my 5th year at Maternity, they came and asked if I wanted to come over here and be the principal, and I said no. Then 5 years later, for whatever reason, they came back, and I said yes. It was kind of like a special homecoming for me to be here and to lead and continue our traditions.” Even though becoming an administrator was never in the plan, his position does give him insight into the difference between his time as a student and now. One of the main differences is the overall enrollment. When Mr. Granger was here, there were roughly 750 kids in the entire school, whereas the high school is now significantly smaller. Even though enrollment is smaller, the school is more diverse. Its diversity does not only lie in race and ethnicity, but also in the religion of the students. Another main difference is the fact that

Bishop McNamara now teaches kids all the way from preschool to high school seniors. The regionalization of the local grade schools was a long-held vision of his, and that vision came true at the first ever all school Mass. “My favorite thing is when we bring the littles over for mass. That’s a special time for me. This year we brought them over for the rosary, which was neat, too. The very first year that we did that, now 7 years ago, all the work that we put in to getting that done, to becoming one school under one name. To have all the kids here, at mass, in their uniforms, that’s what you envision when you do this.” As far as similarities go, the main mission of building character has stayed the same. “When people ask me this question, with the high school specifically, my answer is always that we still have kids. We have great kids, but we have kids, and sometimes, kids make mistakes. We do a great job of holding them accountable.”

As the 100-year celebration of Bishop McNamara is approaching its end, it is safe to say that Mr. Granger’s vision for both the school and the celebration have come to fruition. “It’s been a great year. Our 100th Anniversary, I mean, what a great year we’ve had in celebration of our alumni, our parents, our students, the community. The greater Kankakee area has been supportive of us in celebrating our 100-year anniversary. As we wind down this year of celebration, it has been very special to me, and to all the people that were involved. We have a committee of 3 years, planning for 2 years and implementing this year. So,

it’s been a lot of work, but it has been well worth the effort. I’ve said it many times, but we need to celebrate our 100th anniversary more often because of all the great things that have happened. I’m very thankful for everyone that has helped to make it a great year.”

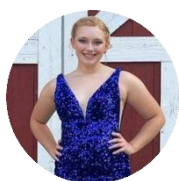


Written By: Sarah Berg

NAVIGATING NAVIANCE

Juniors, the time has come to start thinking about college applications. A useful tool the school provides for students submitting college applications is Naviance. You should’ve received login information from Mrs. Nugent, which will allow you to log in to your account on the Naviance website. If you have not received or if you have forgotten the information, see her in the guidance office to get this information! To access your Naviance account, go to Naviance.com and click “For Students and Parents” under the “Account Log-In” box. Next, enter the zip-code of our school, which is 60901, then select Bishop McNamara Catholic School. After that, all you need to do is select “student” and enter your login information! Across the top of the screen, you will see tabs named “Home”, “Self-Discovery”, “Careers”, “Colleges”, and “Planner.” The “Home”

screen will simply allow you to access other parts of the website. On the "Self-Discovery" screen, you can find quizzes that will aid you in finding a career path and in better understanding your learning style and needs. The "Careers" screen will allow you to explore different career options. The "Colleges" screen will be of the most importance to you. This is how you will request letters of recommendation from your teachers and request transcripts from Mrs. Nugent. In order to do this, on the drop down tab under "Colleges", select "Colleges I'm Applying To", which is located under the title "Apply to College." Once on this screen, you will click the plus sign on the top right portion of the screen. From there, Naviance will ask you to search for and select the college you want to apply to and enter the type of decision you are applying for. The decision types are traditionally regular decision, early action, and early decision. Keep in mind that early decision is a BINDING CONTRACT, and you will have to pay a fee to that school if you get accepted and choose not to enroll. To request a letter of recommendation, select "Letters of Recommendation" on the drop down for the "Colleges" tab, also under the title "Apply to College." There will be an "Add Request" button at the top right of the screen. After clicking that button, choose the Bishop McNamara teacher you would like to make the request to, then select all the schools you would like the letter to be sent to. To request a transcript to be sent to a school, you can click "Manage Transcripts" either from the drop down on the "Colleges" tab or the link at the top right of the "Colleges I'm Applying To" screen. From here, click the plus sign in the top right corner of the page and select the transcript type you are requesting, then select all the schools you would like that transcript to be sent to. You can find the transcripts you need for each school on Common App. We highly advise that all Juniors begin to seriously look at applying to college and where they want to go as the year draws to a close. We wish them all the best of luck and hope for the best. Additionally, we wish good luck to our Seniors as they finalize their decisions!



Written By: Anna Dexter

March 2023

Sports & Academics



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 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.

As we look forward, the Guidance Office has plans to visit Illinois Wesleyan and the University of Illinois in the Spring, however more visits are being worked on. Additionally, visits will be available in the Fall for students wishing to see colleges later in their decision process!

DUAL CREDIT REGISTRATION

As we look forward to next school year, dual credit registration comes on the horizon for our Sophomores. This is an extremely important decision for them to make as Dual Credit is a major component to some of our classes in the Junior year roster. These include AP Dual-Credit Chemistry and Speech! Current Juniors who are looking to take Speech, Psychology, or Statistics also need to be on the lookout for what their dual credit options look like for the coming year. The major roadblock for dual credit is the ACT score requirement. Talking to Mrs. Malm or Mrs. Nugent about the requirements that need to be met for the class you want to take is always a good first step. Having these conversations now is very important as we look on to the 2023-2024 year!



Written By: Grant Naese

March 2023

Fine Arts & Seasonal



ANNIE JUNIOR SPRING MUSICAL

Bishop McNamara held its spring musical Annie Jr. on March 24th and 25th. The story of Annie takes place in New York, in 1933. The story starts in an orphanage run by the wicked Miss Hannigan. Annie is chosen from the orphanage by Grace Farrell to spend the Christmas holiday with the billionaire Oliver Warbucks. Warbucks offers to help Annie find her real parents and he puts out a reward of \$50,000 to find them. The money reward attracts the attention of scheming swindlers Rooster Hannigan and Lily St. Regis. The trio attempts to kidnap Annie by pretending to be her parents, but they are caught. Warbucks and Annie have a happy ending together with Annie’s dog Sandy. The high school cast of Annie Jr. was made of Mary Worby as Grace Farrell, Hailey Neill as Lily, Walter Krause as Rooster, Caitlyn Lindner as Miss Hannigan, Aiden Singleton as Oliver Warbucks, Isabella Ruiz as Pepper, Aaliyah Gray as Cecille/Usherette/Featured Dance, and Danny Buzas as Officer Ward/President Roosevelt. A special thanks to the director, musical director, and choreographer Ms. Knepfkamp for putting the amazing 2023 spring musical together.



Written By: Hailey Neill



ST. PATRICK’S DAY CRAFT

Materials:

- Thin Popsicle Sticks
- Thick Popsicle Sticks
- Markers
- Cardstock
- Glue
- Ribbon/String

Step 1: Using green, black, and yellow, color the sticks.

Step 2: Arrange them on cardstock, with thickest at the bottom.

Step 3: Glue them in place and cut around the edge.

Step 4: Attach ribbon or string to the back of the hat using glue.

Step 5: Hang anywhere in the house as a festive St. Patrick’s Day decoration!



Created By: Sarah Hoehn

SHAMROCK SHAKE

A classic seasonal treat, the Shamrock Shake! A mint shake sold all around America, Canada, and Ireland to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. You can find the Shamrock Shake at McDonald’s... when their ice cream machine is working! When McDonald’s was first becoming popular, they let local McDonald’s create new menu



March 2023 Seasonal & Reviews

items. If the menu items had enough sales, they would add the item to the menu at every store. The shamrock shake was one of those items. The shamrock shake is a personal favorite because of the history and the feeling it brings. It starts being sold in February and stops being sold after St. Patrick's Day.



Written By: Lucy Mast

HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY



St. Patrick's Day is the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick. The Irish people have celebrated this day religiously for over one thousand years. The day falls during the season of lent and it is tradition to attend church and celebrate later. Even though it does fall during the season of lent, all prohibitions are lifted. Though who was Saint Patrick? He lived during the fifth century and is the patron saint of Ireland. When he was sixteen, he was kidnaped and brought to Ireland to become a slave, he managed to escape

but he returned to Ireland and is now credited with bringing Christianity to the Irish people. After his death, the existence of his life became much more integrated with the Irish culture. Eventually, this led to him reaching the point of popularity which we see today.



Written By: Riley Piazza

MARCH MADNESS

March Madness is a single-elimination tournament that includes 64 teams that compete to win the number 1 spot. March Madness is a NCAA tournament which means college teams compete. Many people make a March Madness bracket which purpose is to guess every win/loss up to the championship of the tournament. Although some people have been close, there has never been a perfect bracket. The chances of making a perfect bracket are slim to none. To be exact the chances of making a perfect bracket are 1 in 9,223,372,036,854,775,808. Even though the chances of making a perfect bracket are impossible, many people still have fun with it and make groups with friends. Overall, March Madness is a fun once a year tournament that all people can enjoy.

Written By: Miles Serpe

LIBRARY CHESS LEAGUE

The Chess Library League is an over-the-board chess league at the Kankakee Public Library. The league spans over many dates, age groups, and schools, which unifies all chess players in the area. The upcoming games for this season are on March 4, March 11th, March 25th, April 8th and April 22nd, all at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays. There will also be playoffs for the top 16 of the league which will occur on May 6th, May 20th, June 3rd, and June 17th, all at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Each day consists of two "blitz" games at a fast and more casual pace and one "classical" game at a slower and more calculated pace. For "blitz", each player gets 3 minutes and receives 2 seconds each move, while for "classical", players get 30 minutes and receive 30 seconds per move. There is a \$25 entry for classical with a First Place Prize of \$270, a Second Place Prize of \$170, and a Third Place Prize of \$110 and there is a \$5 entry fee for blitz with a First Place Prize of \$50 and a Second Place Prize of \$30. Overall, The Chess Library League is a fun way to unite our community through a game anyone can enjoy.



Written By: Oliver Heinrich

March 2023 Extras & Credits

MOTIVATION

"I asked for strength, and God gave me difficulties to make me strong. I asked for wisdom, and God gave me problems to solve. I asked for courage, and God gave me dangerous to overcome. I asked for love, and God gave me trouble people to help. my prayers were answered."

- Unknown

"To every dark night, there's a bright day after."

- Daze Quotes

"Be humble and never think you are better than anyone else. For dust you are and to dust You will return."

- Genesis 3:19

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ. The old has passed away behold the new come."

- Corinthians 5:17

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

- St. Catherine of Siena



Compiled By: Lucy Mast

CREDITS



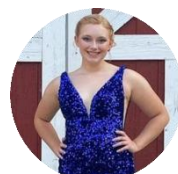
Newspaper President: Grant Naese



Editor: Ethan Patel



Head Editor: Ava Brosseau



Editor: Anna Dexter

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Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

FLOWERS
GOLD
GREEN
IRISH

LEPRECHAUN
PATRICKS
RAIN
RAINBOW

SHAMROCK
SPRING

Created By: Kenna Brosseau