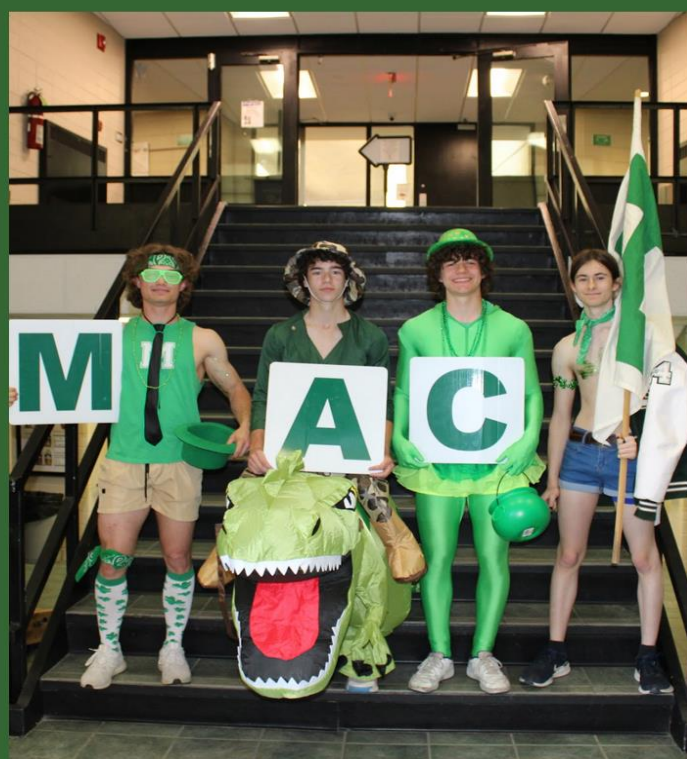




# The Blarney Stone



## May 2023

### Summer & End of School-Year Edition

#### MAY 2023 EDITION

Welcome to the May 2023 Issue of the Blarney Stone, the official newspaper of Bishop McNamara Catholic School! As we finish off the school year, many events happen to cap off the end of our school's 100<sup>th</sup> year! Prom, Mr. Irish, and our house games day all were fun events showcasing the spirit and fun of our school. You'll find a variety of articles that highlight the events and activities finishing off the year. This includes the conclusion of our Spring sports, as well as some final events of the year. May was certainly a month of fun for all.



Written By: Grant Naese

#### PROM

On Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> the annual school prom took place for our Juniors and Seniors. This year's theme for Prom was "A Night in Neverland" and took place at the Elks. Dinner was served which included a variety of things, such as Italian beef,

vegetables, mashed potatoes, and more. Additionally, a candy bar and drink station were also available for the leisure of anyone attending.

Our Prom court this year consisted of 10 Senior Representatives as well as 4 Junior Representatives. Our Senior Representatives were Jackson Jeck, Michael O'Connor, Jackson Mills, Isaiah Davis, Kolton Hunt, Ellery Rohr, Grace Edwards, Leah Wilson, Natalie Prairie, and Kendall Lade. Junior Representatives were Mason McCue, Nick Andrews, Morgan Mayer, and Tara Arseneau. This year's Prom King and Queen were Jackson Mills and Ellery Rohr, voted for by our Junior and Senior classes and announced at Prom itself. Prom is always a great event and we look forward to seeing everyone there again next year!

#### MR. IRISH

Last Friday, we had our annual Mr. Irish competition! Mr. Irish serves as our school spirit leader.

The contenders this year were Juniors Mason McCue, Nikolas Acevedo, Eamon O'Brien, and Jonathan Blanchette. After a tie between the judges and the vote coming down to

an Instagram poll, Eamon O'Brien won the competition and will be our Mr. Irish for next year! Some of the challenges were a lip sync battle, obstacle course, as well as a question panel.

We look forward to seeing Mr. O'Brien's enthusiasm carry us into next year! Go Irish!

#### 2023-2024 PREFECTS

Every year as the school year comes to a close we see the applications for our Prefect Board come out. The goal of the prefect program is to serve as the voice of the student body and a student government for running events throughout the year. Ms. Dawn Akerman is in charge of this program and helps to facilitate the selection of the new board each year, however it is ultimately up to the students of the previous year to select who will be their replacements. After a long interviewing process, the new board is chosen each year and this year's has been announced! The board for this upcoming school year is as follows:

- ☀️ **Head Prefect** Grant Naese (Senior)
- ☀️ **Academic Prefects** Jordan Majszak (Senior) & Emily Storer (Junior)



## May 2023 Prefects, Blood Drive, and Improv

- ☀️ **Activities Prefect** Morgan Mayer (Senior)
- ☀️ **Admissions Prefect** Delaney Kuntz (Junior)
- ☀️ **Ambassador Prefect** Sarah Berg (Senior)
- ☀️ **Athletic Prefects** Mackenzie McCammon (Senior) & Kenna Brosseau (Junior)
- ☀️ **Fine Arts Prefect** Hailey Neill (Junior)
- ☀️ **House Prefects** Christian Provost (Senior) & Claire Goselin (Junior)
- ☀️ **Marketing Prefect** Ava Coy (Senior)
- ☀️ **Sacristan Prefect** Andrea Perucho (Junior)
- ☀️ **Service Prefects** Madeline Russell (Senior) & Manuel Velasquez (Senior)

Congratulations to all our prefects for the 2023-2024 School Year!

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

On Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> our school acted as a medical facility for a day as it hosted a red cross blood drive! Over 50 people came to donate throughout the day. As many people know, blood donations can be very impactful and save up to three lives per donation given. This is something which is very important to many people at our school, and we thank everyone who participated and gave blood. Additionally, everyone who helped run the event played a big part in ensuring it ran smoothly for those giving as well as the Red Cross!

### IMPROV SHOW

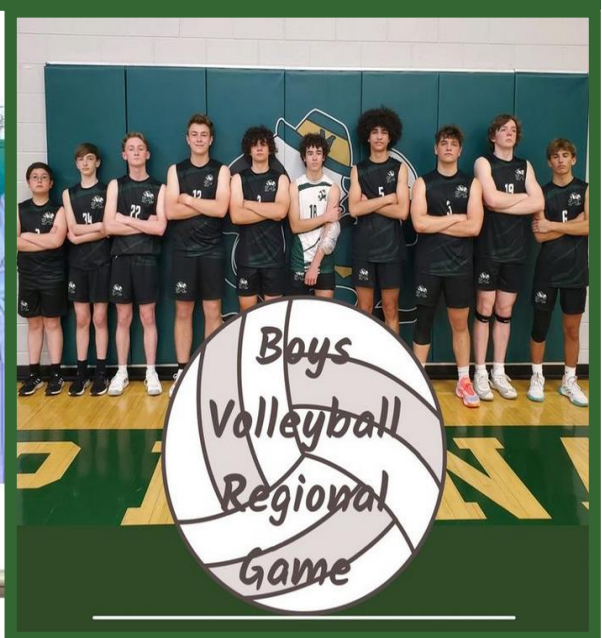
On Friday, April 28th, Bishop McNamara's "Broadway Rejects" Improv Club held their spring show. During the show, the actors make up the entire show on the spot from prompts given to them by the audience. Improv is very unique because of the vital role the audience gets to play in the show, leaving each show with its special twist. The cast and crew of this wonderful show were Connor Silcox, Mary Worby, Christopher Rojas, Hailey Neill, Walter Krause, Kevin Cash, Veritas Babiaka, and Caitlyn Lindner. They opened the show with a game called "Chaos" The game couldn't have a better name, it was chaotic and a wonderful way for every actor to enter a scene and kick off the show. Next, Caitlyn and Walter act in the game "Infomercial" where the two of them have to compete to get the most audience votes on a product they have to sell with a silly name. The next game with Mary, Hailey, Veritas, and Walter is a classic for the Broadway Rejects called "Director". Director is a game where the actors are given a movie genre and they give the audience an inside look at what it is like to film the movie. The fourth game was "News Cast" with Kevin, Christopher, and Caitlyn. The three of them are assigned a personality trait to portray while they bring you the news. The next game was "Inner Monologue" with Hailey, Mary, and Veritas. The three actors take you into a dramatic reality show



where they are not afraid to tell the audience what is on their minds even if their scene partners are unaware. The Broadway Rejects ended the show with two rounds of their game called "Pop Culture Quotes". During Pop Culture Quotes the audience supplies the actors with quotes from their favorite movies and TV shows and the actors incorporate them into the scene. At the end of the amazing show, the cast took a moment to recognize Connor Silcox, who will be graduating this year, by giving him a gift basket to congratulate all the hard work he has done for the Improv club since its founding. The show was a wonderful way to showcase all the hard work and practice the Improv club has done this year and I can't wait until the shows next year.



Written By: Hailey Neill



## May 2023 Athletics

### BASEBALL

The Bishop McNamara baseball season has unfortunately come to an end on Thursday, May 18 due to a loss to Manteno High School in the regional semifinal. The seniors Michael O'Connor, Landon Provost, Jacob Langellier, Jaxon Provost, and Drake Smith will all be missed on the baseball field. We thank these players for making a huge difference and being a part of the team. We all wish them good luck in the future as well. Although the season ended earlier than most would have wanted, there were many successes to be proud of. For one, the team got revenge from the 2022 season by beating Peotone High School on Monday, May 15, in a regional game. The team can also be proud of the three All-Conference players: Michael O'Connor, Callahan O'Connor, and Mason McCue. All-Area, All-State, and Conference Player of the Year will all be announced in June after the State tournament is finalized. We wish these players good luck in being a part of these awards. The team finished the season 13-18, with some players really standing out. Callahan O'Connor led the team in ERA at 1.47. Michael O'Connor led the team in strikeouts with 66. Mason McCue led the team in batting average at .463 and doubles with 12. Landon Provost led the team in stolen bases with 18. The team should be proud of this year's accomplishments. Everyone is looking forward to next year as the team

continues to develop and our Juniors take center stage as the Rising Seniors on our team!



**Written By: Mason McCue**

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

We've all been aware of how our boys' volleyball team has been turning heads ever since their season kicked off. Our boys have demonstrated their phenomenal skills on the court with every game they've had, letting everybody know they can compete with anyone. But, what's the story behind the establishment of this team? How did Boys' Volleyball reach Bishop McNamara?

It all started during the 2021/2022 school year when a couple of the guys had been talking about starting a boys' volleyball team. Among them were Carter Levesque, Abner Garcia, Nik Acevedo, and Nick Andrews. Now, they would have to not only recruit guys to be part of this, but they would also need to find someone who could coach and get jerseys, set up practices, and obviously, get some games. Fortunately, this was all taken care of. Carter Levesque's mom, Jill, offered herself to become our coach and the boys managed to get people to participate. Later, the team started practicing. Since most of them were new to volleyball, they had to learn the basics and the system. Eventually, everybody caught on and they were now ready to face some competition. Even though mac

only played JV teams last year, the team still faced some good competition. The Irish got the opportunity to face schools like Chicago Christian, Riverside Brookfield, and more. This was the boys' chance to make a statement, so they seized their moment and performed. Our volleyball team proceeded to win almost every game and due to this, Bishop McNamara chose to include Boys' Volleyball as an official IHSA sport.

This year, our boys' volleyball team went on to their first year as an official IHSA sport of Bishop McNamara. Most of the boys from last year returned, and new people decided to give it a shot this year. We also managed to form a JV and a Varsity team, which is something we hadn't done before. However, expectations were very high for this year's group since now they had to compete against actual Varsity teams. But not to worry, because they were ready to go and show that they belonged.

The spring season came and with that, volleyball practices started. The boys had to go back to reviewing the system with those that were new, but like last time, they caught on pretty quickly. The team looked promising and ready to start a run with their first game coming up soon. Then, on April 6th, it was time for our boys' first game of the season against the Elmwood Tigers. However, it was spring break, so they were missing some key players. But, regardless of that, they still got the job done and managed to secure their first win of the season, starting off with a 1-0 record. And it only got better from there. By our Irish's 5th game, they remained undefeated and were looking like the team to beat. After this game, local schools, such as BB and Kankakee, became aware of how the Irish have been doing so well



## May 2023 Athletics

despite being a 1st-year program and decided to give it a shot in their own institutions. Now, they're looking to start their own volleyball teams all because of our boys.

Unfortunately, during this 5th game, Evan Rauwolf was taken out late in the game after feeling pain in one of his knees due to falling hard to the ground. Though the Irish were able to keep their streak alive, they would later go on a rough stretch where they lost several games in a row. However, they still remained hopeful and kept fighting through every struggle that came their way.

With playoffs coming soon, the Irish were determined to finish the year off strong, as they had 2 more games at home, where they would face Joliet Central and Wheaton Academy. And this time, the whole team was back together with everyone free of injuries. The Irish went on to put on a show and beat both schools in what came to be 2 great and close games. The boys played the best they have ever played and finished the season with a 7-5 record and placed 3rd in the conference.

Our boys are looking ready to make their first playoff appearance this coming Monday against a really good team. They will face off against the 4th ranked team in the state: the Lincoln-Way East Griffins. Though the task seems impossible, our boys are ready to put on a show and prove to everyone who thinks they don't belong wrong. Let's wish our boys the best of luck as they prepare themselves to play

their first-ever regional match against a great opponent!



**Written By: Abner Garcia**

### SOFTBALL



The softball Irish team is nearing the end of the 2023 season! Alea Rashenskas and Kourtnee Thompson have led the Varsity Fighting Irish through a strong season as their first year of coaching. They are going to the regional championship against Pontiac on Friday with a record of 16-10. Teagan McCue started off the season strong with multiple home runs and many diving plays at shortstop. Kloie Cole has had a total of 80 strikeouts during this season with many good plays on the mound, as well.

Kloie Cole is playing softball at Aurora University, while Natalie Prairie is continuing her athletic career in rowing at Eastern Michigan. Reese Johnson is also continuing her softball athletic career at Carroll University and Tessa

Dipietra is playing softball for Keiser University.

Mallory Kelly has decided to finish her academic career at the University of Alabama. Grace Edwards is continuing her academic career at Mizzou University and Grace Purcell is continuing her academic career at ISU.

**Written By: Kirsten Clodi**

### GIRLS SOCCER



Bishop McNamara is creating history this 2022-2023 school year. Starting off the year strong and defeating many local schools, the team was able to secure the first ever All City Title. After many years of not even having a team, it was reinstated last spring with more than 75% being freshmen. The girls team exceeded low expectations for the season with an amazing record of 10-5 going into playoffs. Recently the team beat Manteno 5-1 to advance to the regional championship where they will face Coal City in the hopes of advancing to sectionals. Regardless of whether or not the team advances to sectionals, this season is one to be

proud of. Winning All City for the first time ever and having a shot at playing in Sectionals is quite the accomplishment.

**Written By: Emily Storer**

## TRACK

The BMCS track team had an astonishing season this year. The girl's season has already come to an end. However, during their season the girls' team managed to bring home a win for the conference meet. The boy's season, however, is still in progress. The boys' team had their conference meet and did well. Although they did not win overall, the boys' team did manage to take home a win in the 4x800 meter relay. The boys have sectionals on May 17th.

**Written By: Miles Serpe**

## HOUSE CUP

The Irish House Cup Program was started in the 2013-2014 school year. It is designed to encourage both community and friendly competition between students in a supportive and inclusive environment.

At Bishop McNamara, the house program provides students with a sense of identity and belonging, as well as a sense of tradition and leadership opportunities. There are five houses, each named for an Irish community: Dublin, Limerick, Donegal, Waterford and Killarney.

Students earn points for their houses by participating in various activities throughout the year, which culminates in the announcement of the house that wins The Irish Cup.

This year's winner was the Limerick house. Congratulations!

## HOUSE CUPCAKE WARS

Our last house event was Cupcake Wars. This is one of the most exciting events of the year, that many look forward to. Each house this year was tasked with creating cupcakes and a display that brought animated movies to life. Dublin had Monster Inc.,

# May 2023 Sports, House, & Academics



Donegal had Rio, Limerick had Alice in Wonderland, Killarney had Toy Story, and Waterford had Kung Fu Panda. There was a set of judges and they voted on the cupcakes. Limerick came in first, Donegal came in second, Waterford came in third, Killarney came in fourth, and finally Dublin came in fifth. Overall, this event was fun and exciting for everyone, because we got to eat delicious sweets and socialize!



**Written By: Ethan Patel**

## OUTGOING HEAD PREFECT INTERVIEW: AVA BROSSAU

As the 2022-2023 school year is coming to a close, the senior class is spending their last days here. Like many students, Head Prefect Ava Brosseau has reflected both on this year as a prefect, as well as her entire high school career. "I was very happy with how this year went! I believe the prefects worked very well as a team to plan and run many successful events throughout the school year. With it being the 100th year, we took on a lot of responsibility and we were able to work together to make this year one of McNamara's best!" This year, many of her favorite memories came from Homecoming week and the special senior year activities that come with it. "Some of my favorite memories happened during our homecoming

weeks throughout the past four years. Games day is always super memorable because of the amazing energy, and the homecoming football game is always a blast. I especially enjoyed our senior breakfast at the beginning of the year - it was a beautiful morning and the whole class got together and had a big breakfast of pancakes, bacon, and Starbucks (thanks Keegan!), while watching the sunrise, and just hanging out together. It was a super special, fun way to kick off the senior year!" Ava's high school experience has led her to develop a strong sense of school spirit, and she encourages others to do the same. "Remember to have some school spirit! You're never too cool to dress up in a student section, go crazy in house games, and cheer with all your might for football! High school only lasts for four years so don't leave with regrets!" Additionally, she reminds us to do our best to bond with our classmates over these four years. In the fall, Ava will be attending the University of Alabama as a Marketing major, with a minor in either Psychology or Sports Media.



**Written By: Sarah Berg**

## ALUMNI INTERVIEWS RECAP

Throughout the duration of the 100-year anniversary of Bishop McNamara, I have conducted interviews with several alumni of the school. Their

## May 2023 Interviews & Seasonal



graduation years have ranged from 1957 all the way to 2015. Although this is almost a 60 year range, many of the answers shared common themes.

One of the most common answers I got was how the faith aspect shaped the overall experience. The main theme with this was how much of a privilege it was to be able to share one's faith with their classmates. Additionally, the Catholic values helped to shape the people they are today. Another common response was the academic rigor and the impact that teachers had on them. Teachers were invested in their students' success, pushing them to be the best versions of themselves and preparing them for the outside world.

The most common response I heard was the idea of tradition. In fact, it was mentioned in every alumni interview this year. We see and hear this word everywhere, even on a lot of the spirit wear, but what does it mean to carry on the McNamara tradition? In general, it means carrying on the traditions of shared faith and academic excellence. For current students, it may mean enthusiastically cheering on your favorite school team or going all out for Homecoming week, but the McNamara tradition extends far beyond the 4 years that are spent as a student. For Khadaizha Sanders, it was coming back to Mac to create a winning girls basketball program, or in the case of Rebecca Czernik, it was coming back to ensure that Junior High students would be able to have an excellent academic experience like she did. For some, it involves sending their kids to the same school they went to. In whatever



way we choose to show it, the McNamara tradition is loud and clear.

As the 100-year celebration comes to a close, it is clear that the school has left a lasting impact on former students and staff, and will continue to make its mark on the community.



Written By: Sarah Berg

### SUMMER CRAFT: TIE-DYE COLLAGE

#### Materials

- ☀ Paper Towels
- ☀ Food Coloring
- ☀ Frame

- ☀ Paper
- ☀ Rags
- ☀ Ice-Cube Tray
- ☀ Paintbrush
- ☀ Scissors

**Step 1:** Fill ice-cube tray with water and add food coloring or your choice.

**Step 2:** Fold paper towels into any shapes (triangles, squares, rectangles).

**Step 3:** Dip the folded paper towels into the colored water. For varied designs, use paintbrush to apply water.

**Step 4:** Carefully unfold the dipped paper towel and place it on rag to dry. Repeat steps 2-4 using as many paper towels as desired.

**Step 5:** Once all designs are dry, cut them into squares and place them into frame.



## May 2023 Seasonal & Extras

**Step 6:** Press the paper on as a backing and close up the frame.

**Step 7:** Enjoy your beautiful collage and hang it up around the house!



**Created By: Sarah Hoehn**

### HISTORY OF EASTER

The history of Easter (even though it happened over a month ago) is quite an interesting one. The day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus in the New Testament. This is said to have happened three days after the crucifixion of Jesus. The holiday ends the Passion of the Christ, the holiday that begins with lent. Though many of the holidays meanings are Christian, the events and traditions themselves are Pagan.



**Written By: Riley Piazza**

### SUMMER BUCKET LIST

Summer is coming up faster than we can even think! We have almost three weeks left of school until we are out for spring break. With summer approaching, I recommend that

everybody makes a summer bucket list to cross fun things off this summer! It is very fun and will help you make the best high school memories possible. Here are just a few ideas for your summer bucket list!

- ☀ Build a fort
- ☀ Make ice cream sundaes with your friends
- ☀ Go swimming at the beach
- ☀ Go to a drive-in movie
- ☀ Have a picnic with friends or family
- ☀ Stay up all night
- ☀ Make smores
- ☀ Have a pajama party
- ☀ Play laser tag
- ☀ Go to a summer carnival
- ☀ Go thrift shopping
- ☀ Tie dye clothes
- ☀ Play games
- ☀ Go on a hike
- ☀ Have a baking night
- ☀ Make a memory jar
- ☀ Go roller-skating
- ☀ Play board games
- ☀ Make root beer floats
- ☀ Wake up and watch the sunrise or stay up to watch the sunset
- ☀ Have a photoshoot
- ☀ Go flower picking and make bouquets
- ☀ Try 12 different ice cream flavors
- ☀ Have the best summer yet!



**Written By: Madeline Russell**



### GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOLUME 3 REVIEW

The highly anticipated Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 3 has finally been released! After some delays, the firing of James Gunn, and Marvel's long list of failing movies over the last couple of years, they have finally hit it big again with Guardians 3. This movie is one to behold and keeps the same energy and vibe of the first two, while expanding upon it and pushing the characters and their relationships to new heights. It's definitely something worth seeing and is a movie that everyone should watch, even if you haven't enjoyed superhero movies for a little while with the expanding list of movies which have been consistently bombing at the box office. If you're looking for a fun movie to see with your friends, but also something that touches your heartstrings, this is the movie for you.



**Written By: Grant Naese**

## May 2023 Extras & Credits

### MOTIVATION

"Summer's the same, we are the ones who are changing."

– **The Summer I Turned Pretty**

"When all else fails, take a vacation."

– **Betty Williams**

"It is easy to forget now, how effervescent and free we all felt that summer."

– **Anna Godberson**

"But tomorrow may rain, so I'll follow the sun."

– **The Beatles**

"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June."

– **Al Bernstein**

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

– **Audrey Hepburn**

"Summertime is always the best of what might be."

– **Charles Bowden**



Compiled By: Lucy Mast

### WORD SEARCH & SUDOKU



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

- BASKET
- BLOOM
- BREAK
- BREEZE
- BUNNY
- CHICKS
- EASTER
- FLOWERS
- PLANTING
- PUDDLES
- RAIN
- SHOWERS
- SPRING

2	4	7						3
			3		2	6		
			1		7		5	4
6		4	2					
3	1			8		4	7	9
		8	7	3				
7					6	3	4	
	3		8		1	7		6
5				7			9	

Created By: Kenna Brosseau

### CREDITS



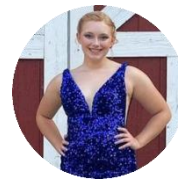
Newspaper President: Grant Naese



Head Editor: Ava Brosseau



Editor: Ethan Patel



Editor: Anna Dexter