

# Winnies and Nickers

Horses Making  
Miracle...  
One Rider at a

November 2009

Volume 4 Issue 10

## It's Holiday Time!

The days are getting shorter, the weather is getting colder, and the holidays are upon us again!

**We will be closed for Thanksgiving—November 26 through 29.** Enjoy the turkey, parade, and relatives. We will re-open on November 30th.

**Our Christmas break begins on December 24 and ends on January 1st.** If you will be taking an extended holiday, please remember to sign out on the calendar next to the sign-in sheets.

When signing out, simply print the rider's name. The squares are small and some days we need to accommodate more than one name.

As always, if you cannot make it and didn't sign out, just give me a call on the hot line—**248 245-0014** at least two hours before class time.

### Colds, flu, sickness and precautions

This fall has been especially bad for the riders with all the colds and flu that is going around. Sometimes parents call and ask if they could/should let the child ride. Our answer is always—If you did not (or would not) send your child to school, do not send them for riding class. If your child was sick and stayed home from school, they may return for riding classes if they have been fever free for 24 hours *without* the aid of medicines.

Always dress for the weather. We have already seen riders without gloves on the days that the temps were in the 30s. Their fingers often get cold faster than ours. It is no fun trying to hold the reins when your fingers hurt.

Knit hats can be worn under the helmet **ONLY IF** the helmet fits the way it would if no hat was on the child's head. A helmet that is perched on the head is not going to be effective if the child falls. Helmet covers are made from fleece and keep the head toasty warm. See me for more information.

Winter boots can be worn **IF** they fit in the stirrups.

Jackets should be short enough so the rider is not sitting on them. Sitting on a coat or jacket can unseat the rider very easily. It is also better to layer the clothes rather than wearing a thick, cumbersome coat.

### Calendar of Events

**November 8—Dressage show—Wind Song in Holly.** We **WILL** have classes. Both Amy Miljour and Riley Keller will be showing. Show your support and watch them ride! First class is at 9:00 am.

**November 26—29—Thanksgiving Weekend.** *No classes—enjoy.*

**December 6—Miracle on 6th Street Parade—Clarkston**

**December 13—Dickens Parade—Holly**  
Details to come—watch bulletin board in barn. *All* riders can participate.

**December 24—January 1—Christmas holidays.** Classes resume January 2, 2010, weather permitting.

### Scout Time!

We will be needing some volunteers to help with the scout troops that will be earning their **Fun with Horses** and **I Love Horses** patches.

We need four leaders and three activity leaders for the following times.

Nov. 7—2:00 pm (8 participants)  
4:00 pm (21 participants)

Nov. 21—2:00 pm (8 participants)  
4:00 pm (7 to 15 participants)

### Welcome to...

We'd like to welcome our new riders—Rachel Eckhout, Jake and Luke Staniszewski, Enya Spaulding, Noah Nerswick, Gwendolyn Lobb, Andy Hodess and Rileigh Tannehill. We look forward to watching their progress in our riding programs.

We are also fortunate to have Allie Schmier, Patrice Wasserman, Chris Boyle and John Hull as new volunteers. Welcome!



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Pretty Pony Pastures  
P. O. Box 86  
9160 Eagle Road  
Davisburg, MI 48350  
Phone: 248.634.7276  
Hot line: 248.245.0014  
Email: [Linda@prettyponypastures.org](mailto:Linda@prettyponypastures.org)  
Website: <http://www.prettyponypastures.org>  
Blog: <http://www.prettyponypastures.wordpress.com>  
For up to the minute information, find us on Face Book!

## Parent/Rider Manual

While straightening out the Tack Room, I discovered a set of yellow folders—the Parent Manual that I wrote during the winter! Some had current rider names on them, so I know that everyone did NOT receive the manual.

If you NEVER got a yellow folder with the Parent/Rider Manual inside, please see me. I have one for you! Please see me after your rider's class.

## Show Notes

If your rider was in the show, please pick up the judge's scoring notes. I've copied them for my files and have put the originals in the table in the Tack Room in a clear folder.

Judge Judy did a great job of explaining what the rider did correctly and where improvements could be made.

Keep them for next year to see your improvements!

## November Birthdays

The following riders and volunteers have birthdays in November.

- Allie Schmier
- Samantha Carlson
- Kathy Carter
- David Ruiz
- Alexandra Sims
- Jessica Anne Schettling
- Rachel Eckhout



Wishing you a happy birthday and a great year.

## Weather Advisories

Here are our guidelines for farm closings. Please be aware that the weather at our farm may be a lot different than the weather in your neighborhood. We are closed if:



- Temperature or wind chill is 20<sup>o</sup> or less.
- Traveler's advisory is in effect
- Snowfall of 4 inches or more (check to see if our drive is plowed)
- Winds gusting to more than 35 mph or a Wind Advisory is in effect
- Severe weather warning (snow, ice, wind, temp, storm)
- Traveler's advisory is in effect.

If in doubt, please call our hot line at **248 245-0014**. We try to post closings as early in the day as possible, but always about two hours before class starts.

If your roads are bad, if your area is not safe for travel, just call and let us know that you are not coming. It's always wise to play it safe.

## Get Well Wishes and Condolences

One of our riders—Ritchie Ragnone—fell during a practice football game and broke his wrist. The break was severe enough to warrant surgery. We are not sure how long Ritchie will not be able to ride. We will have a Get Well Card for him on the Sign-in Table. Please take the time to sign it and give him some encouraging words.

Madison had to undergo some procedures these past few months that kept her legs in full casts—so she couldn't ride. We thought she'd be returning by now, but it appears she can't until spring. There is a "Miss you" card for her on the Sign-In table as well.

Condolences go out to Matthew and Marcus Weil who lost their grandmother this past week.

## Patterson Elementary



Patterson Elementary is back for five weeks of riding. Their bus drops them off every Wednesday at 10:00 am. For the next few hours, the students work in groups—one group rides the horses, another group grooms a horse and has a horse-centered activity like listening to gut sounds or understanding how horses see, and the third group

has a snack and activity in the Tack Room.

This has been a very successful event for the students, their teacher and our volunteers. So much, that we are now looking to expand this service. If you know of any special ed teacher that is looking for a one time or multiple time event for her students, please give her our brochure or our number.

