

Equestrian Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6 - Wednesday 2nd March 2016

EQUESTRIAN MANAGER

Mrs Wendy Fitzgerald

Sadly this will be my last newsletter for NEGS equestrian where I have enjoyed working as the Manager for the past three years, in an inspiring and passionate team. It has truly been a privilege to work with a team of such dedicated and passionate people who are focused solely on the welfare and growth of our lovely NEGS and St John's students.

Speaking with the team yesterday they made note of the number of horses currently at NEGS being 97, which is a far cry from the 30 or so of three years ago. We have faced many challenges to bring us to the thriving school and EC that we see today and I congratulate and thank those who have supported our team during the changes. The introduction and continued refinement of the NEGS High Performance, Equisport and Academy programs are proving successful with significant improvement in rider learning outcomes and competition results.

This year we have introduced the Equestrian Australia Ready Set Trot® program for St John's students which is providing a sound foundation in riding and horse care during these fun sessions. It has been a joy to see the growth in the confidence and skills of these young riders.

I am so very pleased to see the diversity of disciplines that we now have with the jingle of roller spurs on hightops companionably walking alongside dummy spurs and gaiters. We do not have to agree with another's choice of discipline however we should respect it. Do yourself a favour and take the time to understand the other disciplines and grow a healthy respect for the training and skill involved in each, you may find that you are pleasantly surprised by what you learn.

The goal for the Equestrian team is to create and maintain an environment in which students may thrive and become excellent horsewomen/men. Please support the team as they continue to strive towards maintaining this goal.

REMINDERS

Students are reminded to use the events folder when they require transport to events.

Tack left in a mess on tack room floors is confiscated during inspections. One warning only is given then detentions follow for each breach of the standards.

NEGS students receive a 25% discount on Bombers Bits purchased through the Bombers website. <http://www.bombersaus.com/> Anyka has a range of bits to try at the EC.

Riders must sign up for twilight by 4pm Monday afternoons, Imti will post a height schedule by Tuesday lunchtime.

SAFETY

General Safety at the EC

- Safe footwear is to be worn at all times (closed in low heeled footwear);
- When mounted or lungeing, EA approved ASNZS3838 helmets are COMPULSORY at all times;
- Ensure that all equipment is stored neatly and in a tidy manner in both the feed and tack shed to minimise the risk of accidents. All feed is to be stored correctly in clean, airtight containers and utensils and buckets are to be clean at all times;
- Report any damage to yards or equipment to EC staff promptly and email notice to stables@negs.nsw.edu.au;
- The EC is strictly out of bounds to all students without EC staff supervision outside of the opening hours of Monday to Saturday between 6.30 am – 6.30 pm and Sunday between 7.30 and 5.30 pm;
- Students may not ride at any time without another person present;
- No student may jump without the permission of the coaching staff;
- No student may ride after a fall until they have been assessed by EC first aid staff.

INDOOR ARENA RULES

- The arena is only for riding unless permission for lungeing is given by an instructor;
- No loose horses are permitted at any time;
- Unruly horses are not to be ridden/lunged while other less experienced riders are in the arena or lessons are being held;
- Riders pass left hand to left hand;
- No halting on the outside track;

- Slower horse to the inside track, faster pace has the right of way on the track;
- No overtaking on the inside especially on a circle;
- Lesser movements give way to advanced;
- Leave a minimum distance of one horse length between each horse;
- Jumping is only available as part of a lesson;
- Individual riders give way to a lesson;
- Galloping is not permitted unless under instruction;
- You must ensure the indoor arena and stable lights are turned off after use;

SHOW SEASON

The last two weekends have seen Anyka with assistance from Imti, Katie, Wendy, Fiona Maloney, Janine Floyd and Kevin Northey transport and coach girls at Guyra and Armidale shows.

The girls competing at Guyra show impressed the organisers and coaches with some great results and exceptional manners. See the NEGS Facebook page for results and photos.

Last weekend we spent Friday and Saturday at the Armidale show where we ran the Show Riding Rings and had a team of girls competing in several events in the Show Jumping, Breed and Rider Rings.

Congratulations to the girls who competed and the girls from the High Performance Team who helped over the two days. Special mentions to Emma Bennett, Jacque Towns, Phillipa Hamilton, Peter, Lisa and Penny Haynes, Michelle Williams, Kylie Finlay, Tina Eichorn, Lex Archer, Nills and Sarah Jacobson and Mrs Evans for assisting the team.

A Huge thank you to Rochelle Tubb for all of her ground work prior to the event and Henry Newell-Hutton, Jo Finlayson, Anyka Overton for going over and above once again to ensure that the event ran well.

Feedback from competitors and the Show Secretary was excellent with all commenting that they enjoyed the two days and complimented the team on the quality of the event.

Thank you to Norco, Omega Feeds, New England Girls' School, Australian Stock Horse Society, Riding Pony Stud Book Society, Newcastle Permanent, Quality Powerhouse and Burtons Saddlery for their sponsorship and support of the event. Our Judges Matt, Shelley and Laurie were impressed with the standard of horses and riding over the two days and gave excellent feedback to competitors. Ring Master Chris Johnston did an exceptional job under pressure and kept things moving without a PA system when the power failed early on Saturday. We look forward to having Chris on the team again for the NEGS ODE in November this year.

Please see the NEGS Equestrian facebook page for results and photos from the shows

Looking forward I wish all of the staff, girls and families the very best of luck in their future endeavors.

I leave you with the inspiring words of Norman Vincent Peale

"Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy".

