

DECEMBER 2012

RUNNIN' WJ

# Horseshoe Review

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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Runnin' WJ. Our staff and volunteers have decked our walls with whimsical, kid-friendly decorations and Christmas trees. We are also anxiously preparing for a week of celebrating with our kids on Dec. 13-19.

We are excited to announce that we will be partnering again with local ministry, *Laces of Grace*, to provide brand new shoes for the children. This proved to be a memorable and heartwarming partnership last year and we are thankful to Matt Graves and the *Laces of Grace* team for their service to the underprivileged youth in our community.

If you have not already had the opportunity, look through the pages of our first annual Christmas Giving Catalog, *Season of Smiles*, on the homepage of our website, [www.runninwj ranch.org](http://www.runninwj ranch.org). Consider collecting coins with your family or organization to pay for a child to receive a new helmet or new coat this Christmas. We will be collecting these donations through the month of January.

We cannot begin to express how blessed we are at the Ranch. We could not operate without YOU, our faithful Ranch family, and want to express our deepest gratitude for your service and love you share with our kids. Whether you attend one of our annual equine events, volunteer every week, are a member of a church that gives financially or have only heard about us through family or friends, each of your roles in the Ranch are equally significant and we love you. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season filled with wonder and joy. Merry Christmas! ~Santa Sam



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# *Twas Two Weeks 'til Christmas...*

A Runnin' WJ rendition of the Christmasy Classic Clement Clarke Moore Poem...

by Mary Lynn Burns



Twas two weeks 'til Christmas, when all through WJ,  
the horses were waiting for their afternoon hay.  
The children were laughing and smiling real big,  
Because Santa Sam was dancing a jig.

Brittany served cookies with boxes of juice;  
While Narda read *The Grinch* by ol' Dr. Suess.  
Karen fitted coats, while Shelly fit new shoes,  
Mary Lynn snapped pictures for the WJ News.

When in the arena there arose such a scene,  
The kids flew to the windows, forgetting their cuisine.  
Each of their noses pressed up against the glass,  
Arkansas and Atlanta, in a curious mass.

Mack had the horses in an organized team,  
and they pranced and danced like an equestrian dream.  
Jack Frost whinnied and Willie brayed  
Rojo stood tall as he trotted and nayed.

The children clapped, and all looked amazed  
as Apple lifted his hooves and his head upraised.  
Even Dumplin' danced in her own pony way,  
and Bud barreled by like a lively young Bay.

Rascal galloped by for a delightful show,  
and as if on cue, it started to snow!  
Kid snickered and snorted as the kids clapped their hands,  
then all the horses bowed for their adoring fans.

Mrs. Joan whistled and everything stopped,  
Then she began to cluck, and the ponies hopped.  
The horses followed with their own little jumps,  
as if they were soaring over imaginary stumps.

Then Sonny Boy approached carrying a passenger,  
and began to majestically circle around the parameter.  
Mystic voiced, "Who is it?" and Abby agreed,  
Carson yelled, "Why it's Santa Sam!" creating a stampede.

Everyone flooded the porch as Santa Sam waved,  
circling around the arena as the children raved.  
His eyes-how they twinkled as he prepared to dismount,  
He addressed the children and began to recount:  
"Children, this Christmas at Runnin' WJ,  
many helped make it special, I'm excited to say."

With this speech, Alicia appeared with a sack.  
Taiwan pulled out prizes from the pretty red pack.  
A helmet for Jaden, and a stuffed pony for Kaylie...  
A saddle blanket for Cash and a warm hat for Haylie...  
The volunteers cheered and the teachers cried;  
tears of joy flowed from their sparkling eyes.

Santa Sam smiled at the jolly, happy site,  
as Mr. Ron hugged children with all of his might.  
Everyone laughed and the kids began to sing,  
"Glory to the Newborn King."

Then they all watched as the snow continued to fall  
and the horses returned to their freshly mucked stalls.  
Then little Mercy piped up beginning a cheer,  
"Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year!"







2012 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT THE RUNNIN WJ RANCH

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13

Celebrating with each class during the day  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies  
 Celebrating with evening group at 5 PM  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies  
 Ask Each Parent to bring 1 dozen cookies and then let them take home different cookies

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14

Celebrating with each class during the day  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies

\*\*\*\*Wake Village riding

MONDAY DECEMBER 17

Celebrating with each class during the day  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies

Celebrating with evening group at 6 PM  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies  
 Ask Each Parent to bring 1 dozen cookies and then let them take home different cookies

\*\*\*\*Pre-K riding

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18

Celebrating with each class during the day  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies

Celebrating with evening group at 4:00 PM  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies  
 Ask Each Parent to bring 1 dozen cookies and then let them take home different cookies

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19

Celebrating with each class during the day  
 Decorating a horse in each class and taking pictures  
 Distributing shoes to the kids  
 Eating Cookies

\*\*\*\*Josiah riding

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY DRAWING WINNERS, TERESA MERRELL AND DEBBIE SCHIMMING!  
 Each will receive a gift card as their prize. Thank you for your service!



CALENDAR EVENTS

December 2nd-  
 First Day of Advent

December 13-19th-  
 Christmas Celebration  
 at the Ranch with our  
 Students (See Schedule)

December 19th-  
 Last Day of Class for 2012

December 14th-  
 Ramin Karimloo  
 (Phantom of the Opera,  
 25th Anniversary Perform-  
 ance in London) Concert at  
 Pleasant Grove High School

December 24th-  
 Christmas Eve

December 25th-  
 Christmas

January 1st-  
 New Year's Day

January 7th-  
 Classes Resume



DECEMBER VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

- |                                  |                                   |                                     |                                    |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Karen Akin, 30 <sup>th</sup>     | Amber Cockreham, 17 <sup>th</sup> | Russell Henderson, 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Brianna Son, 6 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Joni Adams, 17 <sup>th</sup>     | Amanda Coe, 28 <sup>th</sup>      | Elizabeth Jones, 18 <sup>th</sup>   | Meagan Stanfill- 4 <sup>th</sup>   |
| James Baugus, 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Randall Collen, 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Kim Gill, 6 <sup>th</sup>           | Ty Steed, 17 <sup>th</sup>         |
| Hannah Bowen, 20 <sup>th</sup>   | Rob Corbett, 18 <sup>th</sup>     | Kim Lawler, 16 <sup>th</sup>        | Robert Stokes, 21 <sup>st</sup>    |
| Barbara Brooks, 27 <sup>th</sup> | Dan Davis, 30 <sup>th</sup>       | Cindy Loper, 22 <sup>nd</sup>       | Brandy Swink, 5 <sup>th</sup>      |
| Suzanne Brown, 20 <sup>th</sup>  | Rodney Drew, 18 <sup>th</sup>     | Jessica Lott, 5 <sup>th</sup>       | Courtney Talton, 25 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Bonnie Champion, 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Alexis Gray, 15 <sup>th</sup>     | Leslie McFadden, 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Christine Taylor, 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |
| Ryan Cherry, 15 <sup>th</sup>    | Billy Joe Grey, 8 <sup>th</sup>   | Colby Norris, 23 <sup>rd</sup>      | Kolt Tolleson, 17 <sup>th</sup>    |
| Toni Clark, 15 <sup>th</sup>     | Chelsee Hardin, 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | Chris Paul, 15 <sup>th</sup>        | Jackie Whitehead, 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Teri Cobb, 17 <sup>th</sup>      | Sylvia Hatley, 9 <sup>th</sup>    | Dallas Richardson, 28 <sup>th</sup> |                                    |



# One church. One child

At Runnin' WJ, we are excited to see churches reaching out to help our students experience the gift of therapeutic riding. To see the body of Christ helping these special individuals is a wonderful blessing. It is never too late for your church to help a child. Call us at 903- 838-3223 to hear how your congregation can give the gift of therapeutic riding to a child this Christmas.



WE ARE SO BLESSED



*From all of us at Runnin' WJ Ranch,  
we hope you have a very Merry Christmas.  
We are so thankful for your love for our kids.  
~ Love and Joy from WJ*