

TRAINING, BOARDING & BUYING

Heritage Los Angeles riding school gets a new owner and a big goal sheet.

by Kim F. Miller

Tori English signs her e-mails with the Winston Churchill quote, “No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.” And it’s not just a quote for her: it’s the inspiration for her purchase of the Traditional Equitation School at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank.

She began riding at TES in 1986, at 11, and, except for a break to attend college, she’s continued to be a student up until she bought the whole kit and kaboodle. “It was a lifelong dream of mine,” says Tori. She’d spent 20 years working very long days as a TV editor and, as it became clear that her now 7 year old daughter, Madeline, shared her passion for horses, Tori began to politely pester previous owner Steve Weeks to sell her the school.



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It took a while, but when Steve decided to focus his energies on revamping the Griffith Park Pony Ride business he owns, he finally relented and Tori took the TES reins in May.

Motivated by the desire to bring more new people to the sport, Tori has big plans for TES. It's already humming along with an average of 25 horses and a busy slate of lessons, camps and four schooling shows a year.

Affordability is a priority and Tori sees the Interscholastic Equestrian Association middle and high school league as a terrific avenue for that. She envisions it will take about three years to realize her vision to have TES host multiple IEA teams. "I'll be reaching out to any school that would like to have a team here." That includes private and public schools, home school families and groups of friends from various schools that want to form a squad. Hosting six IEA shows a year is part of the plan, too. She foresees a requirement that team members will take two lessons per week and compete in one show a month during the September through February season.



That strikes a nice balance between reasonable costs for middle class families and giving kids enough hours of involvement to apply for a waiver from PE classes at most schools.

She notes that the IEA has a scholarship program and that fundraising opportunities are another part of her plan to keep horses and riding accessible. In buying the legacy program, Tori has a great head start. TES already has a Girl Scout riding program in place, "which we plan to make more robust." (Boy Scouts are welcome, too!) And it hosts classes for UCLA Extension students and through Los Angeles City College, both of which combine riding with classroom horsemanship education.

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Optical Prescription is important for the eyes, but the same is true for the ears. The ears are the most important part of the horse's head, and they are the only part of the head that can be seen. The ears are the most important part of the horse's head, and they are the only part of the head that can be seen.