

What's Up This Month?

- Arena works.
- Raffle drawing at the end of October.
- Halloween costume competition.
- Early Christmas presents!

Check out our costume tips on page 3...

UPDATE

Teflon is back!! And of course as bossy as ever. After being away from home for over a month we are happy to report that he is fitting right back into his routine (naughtiness) very quickly.

Unfortunately Sandy is still missing and we are more worried for her now that she is potentially alone. Lets keep spreading the word and looking out for her. Teflon was found in Bois Patat so if anyone has contacts there please let them know to look out.

We have missed you!!

Hello Sandy Hoofs friends and family! It's definitely been a quiet month at the stables without the usual chit chat and laughs. We are looking forward to seeing you all again and catching up on all the missed horsey talk.

Our Raffle is in full swing, most of the parents already have their envelopes in hand and are assisting in selling tickets. If you didn't yet receive yours connect with me, the more we sell the closer we can get to a better arena and more secure pastures.



Sandy

Did you know? Horses can understand & interpret human emotions

A study by the Universities of Sussex and Portsmouth found that horses can read human facial expressions and remember a person's previous emotional state, adapting their behavior accordingly. This ability comes naturally to horses as they have complex facial expressions themselves.

Another study by Smith and colleagues (2016) detected an increase in heart rate when horses were looking at angry human faces versus happy ones. The study concluded that horses can accurately identify positive and negative human facial expressions and were more stressed when looking at angry faces.



Keeping you in the loop..

During September we wanted to get well under way with finishing the stalls and getting the roofing on. Alas we didn't complete as much as we wanted, Mathew fell out of a mango tree (he's ok now) and Tevin cut his hand and needed stitches (he's also ok now). There was also the many days spent searching for Teflon and Sandy. So it is not the grand reopening we were hoping for but we are definitely a bit closer to our goal!

We did get our electricals installed and now have our solar all hooked up so we have lights and a fridge for cold drinks to sell as an added revenue. Whoop Whoop! 🙌🙌

One of the main reasons for our fundraising raffle is to improve the arena footing and drainage so it's safer and more weatherproof. We reached out to our neighbour Mr. Aaron Sewak to get some work done and an excavator showed up like literally the next day (he means business!). We realised it's gonna take a bit more dirt moving to get the grading right and we were also advised to make sure we get the drainage right and have all the right layers or we will just be wasting time and money. It's not gonna be Olympic standard but it's gonna be way better than the dirt patch it is now. So it's super important that we push the raffle ticket sales so we can finish the arena quickly.

With the arena a bit out of commission it means we will be holding lessons out on the first beach (a nice change of scenery) which will be a combination of a trail ride out and flat work on the beach. We really don't want to delay lessons any longer as we know you all miss it and we miss having our students around having a fun time while learning.

Don't forget that the prizes for the raffle are epic!! So do take as many chances as you like. We will be drawing on the same day as the Halloween costume shindig so it'll be an exciting day overall to close off October!



Nye helping Mathew and Josh with the roofing.



Kacey installing the electricals and the box to connect the solar!



Sewak's excavator making strides in grading the arena.

FYI....Payments being made easier:

We have recently setup with [Dcash](#) so you if you have your Dcash wallet setup you can pay easily for local lessons with digital cash. Once you have the app you scan the code and send the amount.



Halloween Costume Tips:

The Good, The Bad (but possible) and The not so Ugly

This will be a first for Sandy Hoofs and we are really looking forward to it. We are aiming for this to happen on the 30th/31st and will keep you updated with regards to curfew and Covid-19 allowances. Here are tips so that your choice is a safe, fun and memorable one.

The Good:

- Paint is easy to be creative with and can make a BIG impact. Check that you use only non-toxic water paint though!



The Bad (more like CHALLENGES to overcome).

- Horses perceive the world quite a bit different to us. Shiny, reflective, flowy and patterned materials can be a surprise for them (they are big babies really). Plan to come and get the horses accustomed to parts of the costume so we don't have spooked horses on Halloween 🚫



The not so Ugly:

- We know that Halloween is mainly spooky costumes but we do encourage you to be as creative as possible. It can be ugly, scary, funny, beautiful, cute you name it! How many recycled items can you use? Does one of your favorite movie characters come with a four-legged side kick? There are tons of ideas online too!



Here comes Santa, or Mrs. Clause a tad early!

In this big (slightly crazy) world it's amazing the connections that can be made and truth be told we never really know who is going to show up at our doorstep.

Now Josh is all about "what you see is what you get" he honestly doesn't worry if something isn't perfect because he knows the work that it has taken to get where we are and we are on a "journey".

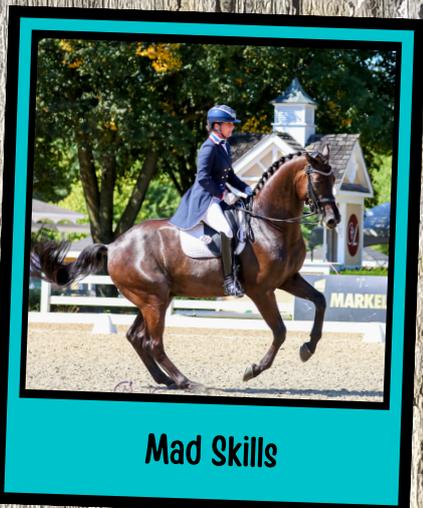
Me on the other hand, I'm like constantly cringing because I can visualize where it could be and I wanna get there like last year. I want to make it perfect now and just enjoy it with horsey loving people, catch my drift?

So anyways in September we had the pleasure of some serious horsey guests showing up to ride. Now when you spot a horsey guest and they are wearing a [USDF](#) (United States Dressage Federation) cap you know they are pretty legit. Well I nearly died when I realised we had USDF medalist [Karen Lipp](#) on tour. In my peripheral vision I'm there like oh boy... Can the makeshift tarpaulin covering over the stalls morph into a proper roof? How about some sand blow in from the beach and just land perfectly into the arena?

Nope it wasn't a day for miracles! Well luckily she wasn't fazed one bit and was very interested in our story and that journey that Josh is always reassuring me that it's all about.

I have to say I think the journey is heading into a pretty cool chapter as Karen has rounded up some good second hand stuff towards our riding school equipment. YAY! I'm not going to share all the details because it's gonna be exciting to see what's heading our way in some boxes soon. And that won't be all! She's really interested in getting the word out about us for the support we need to get the riding school moving forward allowing the talent and skill in Saint Lucia to be showcased. So it's going to be an early Christmas this year and very positive energy as we look forward to 2022.

For all the crazy going on in the world it's reassuring to know that we never have to be alone in our struggles. There is massive strength when the goal is positive and the journey there can be enjoyable too.



Mad Skills



Diamond didn't get the memo.



Heading our way!

Sneak Peak Next Issue:
Halloween Costume Winners
and Raffle winners
announced and
Christmas Shopping tips for
our young riders.

Teflon would not be back with us if it were not for the constant help from many eyes and ears looking out and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped getting the word out. Sharing the posts, calling us for any sightings, sending photos and asking around, these things all contributed to his safe return. Now we just have to find Sandy and bring her home too.

Thank you from the Sandy Hoofs team and herd.