

Establishing hobbies lasting forever

By: Tyler Grimm

Horsing Around

Equestrian Club members congregated once a month to talk about riding, showing, and jumping horses.

"I joined Equestrian Club because I am interested in horses and I wanted to meet new people," said **Heather Fritsch, 9**.

The group of about 15 girls met in room 248 once a month to chat about their horses and shows. Not only did the girls talk about horses, they planned an annual trail ride in which they all participated. The ride through Winton Woods proved to be an enjoyable trip for all.

"I liked the trail ride a lot last year and it was a good way

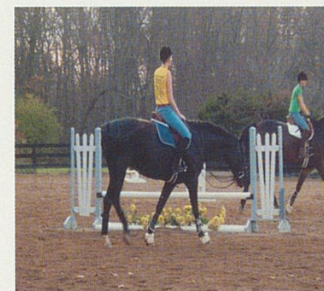
to get to know everyone in the club," said **Jenna Samuels, 10**.

The girls in the club loved horses, and it was easily seen. Some of the girls in the club owned a horse but others did not. The love for horses was clearly present during the club meetings and the girls were consistent in meeting for club throughout the year.

The president of the club, **Olivia Poff, 12**, was dedicated to making sure all the girls had fun and no one felt unwelcome. The atmosphere was relaxed, and the girls joked around to pass the time while talking about horses and upcoming events. One thing is for sure, this club was the place to be if you wanted to participate in activities related to horses.



Jenna Samuels, 10, shows her horse, **Freckles**, in an under saddle class. Samuels rode at David Biesel Stables. She has been riding for eight years and has ridden Freckles for one year so far.



Olivia Poff, 12, rides her trainer's horse, **Daria**. She rode at Teal Lake Farm six days a week, working her own horse as well as her trainer's. She competed in hunters and equitation events at the shows.

Caroline Ibbotson, 10, performs the strike maneuver. It was essential to know this when attacking a foe. Fencing club practiced the move at every meeting.



En garde!

One of the reasons Fencing Club existed was because there were not enough competitors to compete in competitions. Few schools even offered fencing as a sport. Instead the club focused on technique, foot work, and strategies to win. When the club actually did compete, they traveled to Sal Du Lion on Fridays.

The club taught essential basics for newcomers and helped to sharpen skills for the more experienced.

"In general, we teach newcomers about footwork," said **Nancy Kidnocker, 11**.

Although throughout history fencing has been a predomi-

nately a sport for boys, girls have started to take it up, too.

"Ladies who do well will advance much faster, because there is less competition," said **Mr. Ron Hochstrasser**, Fencing Club advisor and instructor.

When girls faced boys there was often a tendency to think that they are at a disadvantage since boys were considered "stronger." This is far from the truth because girls could be smaller in stature, or, in other words, smaller targets, and thus they were harder to hit.

All fencers were welcome to come to the club and many had a blast learning and practicing the art of fencing.

"I enjoy the atmosphere of fencing and being with my friends," said **Maxwell Hunter, 9**.



Standard fencing equipment included the helmet, glove and foil. All fencers either brought their own equipment or were assigned equipment belonging to the club. The equipment was vital for practicing.



Stretching preceded every meeting. This allowed the fencers to warm up their muscles. Afterward, the group moved on to drills.