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WIT Report



The time I spent this winter in Wellington was undoubtedly a highlight of my life. I had the opportunity to take part in the Dressage4Kids Winter Intensive Training program. From January through March, I was fully absorbed in the equestrian world. Going into the program, I was excited, nervous and full of expectations. I had no idea how fun the next three months were about to be. Between the lessons with Lendon, the amazing field trips, the fascinating lectures and the lifelong friendships I made, WIT can only be described as unforgettable.

Every day was a new opportunity to learn, not only about being successful in the equestrian world, but also about myself. I learned how to push myself to my full potential. Lendon taught me to have higher standards, in the ring and in the barn. During our daily lessons, I worked on accuracy and being a more efficient rider. Keeping my stall and the area around it clean became a fulfilling challenge. WIT showed me the importance of taking pride in my work. In a lecture with FEI 4* judge Cesar Torrente, we learned the steps to properly prepare for a show. He passed on advice from a former coach, telling us the key is to be proud of our horses and everything we have done together. He explained that

this would make us sit up taller, and ultimately help us ride a better test. Over the winter, we received many insightful tips from a wide variety of professionals; riders, trainers, vets, saddle fitters, nutritionists and mental performance coaches.

As I settle back into normal life, I feel as though my WIT experience has given me a rare skill set. Having completed the three months of intensive training, I find myself facing challenges with much more ease and confidence. Frequent vet and farrier visits taught me to think independently and to look out for my pony. When she came up lame, I had to adapt, and make the most out of my time, despite being unable to ride. Finding a balance between schoolwork and riding proved to be a valuable lesson in time

management. The WIT program provided me an exceptional education that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Above all, I am extremely grateful for all the hard work and generosity behind me. My parents, family and coach made sure I had the best opportunity possible. I am especially thankful for the support of Dressage4Kids. The Lendon Gray Scholarship gave me the chance to participate in the entirety of WIT. I believe every minute in Wellington contributed to my and my horse's progress. I cannot express my gratitude for this opportunity enough.

