



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Monte Tavor Newsletter

A Spanish Immersion experience for children.

IN THIS ISSUE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

Holidays and Celebrations

Valentine's Day

In February, children used different materials in order to create art for Valentine's Day. We would like to thank the parents who participated in this event for sending valentine's cards and gifts to share with classmates.

They are also going to work with different materials, such as tissue paper, shapes, stickers and more, to create Art pieces. Monday (March 26) and Tuesday (March 27), Parents are welcome to plan and bring an activity. 9:00-9:30 am.



Saint Patrick's Day

On Friday, March 16, 2018, children celebrated Saint Patrick's Day by doing art crafts and learning about the Irish's culture.

April fool's Day

On Monday, April 2, 2018, older children will be learning to make up friendly and fun jokes for everyone to enjoy. You may send in your written friendly jokes, rhymes or riddles!

As we are getting ready to say bye to the Winter Season, we are getting ready to say hello to the Spring Season.

Celebration of Spring Time!

Tuesday -Thursday (March 20-22) we celebrated, began thinking and exploring colors of spring, these included pastels and bright colors such as the greens, yellows, and oranges.

Earth Day

Children and their families, friends, and neighbors are welcome to join us for a morning in the garden. We will also accept material donations (seeds, soil, flowers, plants, garden tools, wooden boxes, etc.) that can be helpful for our gardens. Skyline location will meet on Thursday (April 19, 2018) 9:00 am to 10:00am. Laguna location will meet on Friday (April 20, 2018) 9:00am to 10:00am.

Check out the Pictures

View our web galleries from time to time for pictures from both sites. Check out the parents' app for group or individual pictures this upcoming week!! [Photo Gallery](#)



Easter Celebration

Children are going to use and mix pastels and bright colors by using the primary colors and adding white on their art for Easter Crafts.

Opportunities for Learning

There were plenty of opportunities for learning in the winter season. During the month of December, children did a lot of fun holiday decorations for the winter tree and went home with paintings of arts and crafts. In January, they received their new activity workbooks among the different preschool age groups. Rain has brought a lot of learning and inquiries well into the month of March. The weather forecasting activities allowed them to predict what the weather would be like in the morning and in the afternoon. Toddlers and Preschoolers learned about how insects and creatures are often seen and come out of their hiding places during rainy days. They also continued learning about the rain cycle, what happens to the plants and land after it rains, and had viewings of rain falling or hailing. You may also refer to our prior newsletter for more details.

We thank Mother Nature for providing these wonderful learning small moments. Children have certainly enjoyed the rainy and sunny days for the past couple of months.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

It was wonderful to see parents participate in seasonal themes, we hope that next year we have more parents presenting about spring holidays celebrations such Saint Patrick's and Easter.

PARENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARENT ACTIVITY THEMES SHOULD CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR. I.E., EASTER AND EARTH DAY. LET US KNOW WHEN YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING.

Teaching Emergent Themes

Emergent themes is one of our most interesting and favorite learning approach. One reason is because it is endless as every day, every week, and every month, children 15 months and older continue to learn about the many different things in nature. As the winter comes to an end, we have been getting ready to learn about spring. Some of the inquiries about spring are: What happens in spring? What colors come to mind? What are bright and pastels colors? And the most favorite one was, what causes a rainbow? Children were able to do Art: painting a rainbow or coloring a rainy cloud. Outdoor activities: while looking for bugs outside, they also looked for rainbows. This brought them to learn about the color wheel, hues, tint, and shades. Children are going to participate in a color lab unit. Recognizing colors, mixing primary and secondary colors and adding tint or shade. This will be a fun learning exposure as they will be using those colors for a few fun theme activities in the spring, Easter crafts and animal habitats.



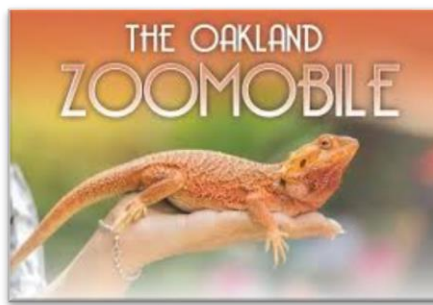
Teachers' Training

Just how children learn every day, teachers learn, develop and improve on their teaching methods. Our motivational goal, is to have teachers learn how to teach children by discovering children's way of learning, as they get to know the individual child. Teachers may encounter those in their group who learn by one or more of the following aspects: linguistic, kinetic, spatial, inter or intra personal, according to Howard Gardner's theory based on how children learn and the multiple intelligences. Therefore, we have days that have been dedicated for training. On those days, teachers train to become resourceful by learning several teaching techniques, since not every child learns the same way. Training becomes very beneficial for them in order to share with other members of the teaching team, what they know as well as what they have learned and observed from their teaching experiences.

During the recent training, they learned how to set up for their class indoor and outdoor activities. This prepared them and provided ideas on what to do based on the day and season. For example, if the weather was rainy, children could learn about weather forecasting or if it was sunny, children could play outdoors with obstacle course games. They also learned how to set up an activity, a game or a dramatic pretend play theme, and how that same activity can be expanded into more than one activity. For example: while playing with colorful water boats that have numbers on them, not only children are having fun playing with water toys, but they are also learning about colors, patterns and numbers at the same time. Teachers also learned, when combining different materials, they could create another extension of that same activity. That way, children would get entertained and learn more from those exposures. Here is another example, instead of only playing with stuffed animals or doctor kits, they can combine both materials and set up a pretend play for "A Visit to the Vet". Now, you may imagine what this theme alone would allow children to learn by using their imagination and practicing new vocabulary.

Teachers also prepared for our upcoming Animal Habitat Project. They looked at the top five major habitats that exist and chose visual animal habitat projects that are appropriate for each age group. Based on those visuals, teachers took with them several art and craft ideas on how to help children create their habitat project.

Animal Habitat Project



Oakland Zoo Mobile

The Oakland Zoo Mobile will be visiting Monte Tavor. Children and their families from both locations (Skyline and Laguna) are welcome to join us on Friday, April 6, 2018, from 9:00 am to 9:30 am. **This event will only be presented at the Laguna location.** We hope to see you all there!!



Observing an insect on a flower, at Skyline location.



Looking for insects at the Skyline location.

The time of the Animal Habitat Project has arrived. During the month of April, each class will pick one out of the five major habitats (forest, desert, water, grassland and tundra). After they pick one of the five major habitats, they are going to get more specific and focus on only one. For example: If they pick water, they can focus on either a river, pond, lake, ocean, or a marsh.

Once they have chosen their animal habitat, they are going to learn more about it by looking at books, magazines, and working on activities that focus on learning about the different animals from that habitat. After learning about their habitat, each child will choose an animal to learn basic and fun facts.

Followed by creating a 3D or 2D art project. Each individual child will decorate or create their own animal using different kinds of materials. They will also work together as a group, to work on the background scenery. During this project, children will learn how to use their primary colors to create secondary colors. They will use white and black paints to tint and shade colors. They will also use different art materials and natural ingredients like rice, sand, moss, grass, etc.

Once the projects are done, parents will be invited over to see them. For the Skyline location, parents and family are welcome to join us on Thursday (April 26, 2018) from 9:00 am to 9:30 am. For Laguna location, parents and family are welcome to join us on Friday (April 27, 2018) from 9:00 am to 9:30 am.

What's the Purpose?

The purpose of this project is more than just learning about animals. In this project children are practicing several skills like working independently, collaborating, using critical thinking, communicating, listening, following instructions, and being creative.

Another benefit of this project is for children to practice different types of multiple intelligences, or ways of learning. More specifically, the Naturalistic Intelligence. According to Howard Gardner, an American psychologist, who believes that one of the multiple intelligences is the naturalistic intelligence. When children are exposed and learn about the outdoors and nature, they become what is referred to "nature smarts".

"Kids with 'nature smarts' may be able to categorize or catalog things quite easily. As children they often like to collect, classify, or read about things from nature — rocks, fossils, butterflies, feathers, shells, and the like... They are the ones who wonder about the things they see around them and ask endless questions about what they observe."
(The work of Leslie Owen Wilson, Ed. D.).



The Wildcare Nature Van will be visiting Monte Tavor. Children from the Skyline location are welcome to join us with their families on Thursday, May 24, 2018 from 9:00am to 10:00am. Children from the Laguna location are welcome to join us with their families on Friday, May 25, 2018 from 9:00am to 10:00am.



Painting ladybugs (Skyline location).



Starting to work on their Animal Habitat Project Scenery (Skyline location).

Learning Regardless of Age

As children continue to grow and learn new things, their brain continues to develop and improve by practicing many skills. Each age group, is working on specific activities that are age appropriate. Graduates and preschoolers continue to work on their activity workbooks, where they learn to write alphabet letters, short words, numbers, colors, tracing, patterns and much more. They also practice listening skills by following directions, in order to prepare them for Kindergarten. Toddlers continue to stack Legos, practice how to write and draw by using writing tools, modeling clay and playdough. Infants are still developing their five senses by using sensory tactile toys, cloth and board books, musical instruments, listening to songs, and being outdoors when all possible. In addition, all the age groups are listening to stories, learning songs, riddles and poems. Practicing those skills can be beneficial for children as they learn and improve their Spanish language, when speaking and writing words, letters, short and long phrases.



Working on their activity workbooks.
(Laguna site)



Making music and using the hearing sense.
(Laguna site).



Stacking Legos (Laguna site).



Learning how to write.
(Laguna site)



Dramatic Play: Playing doctor.
(Skyline site)



Story time (Skyline site)

Skyline's Indoor Activities



Children are using toy insects to learn how to match.



Using colorful different insects to do different activities such as matching, pattern, puzzles, and math.



Using magnets to discover what is magnetic and what is not.



Learning how to write the alphabet letters, numbers and draw shapes.



Learning about different instruments and their sounds in order to make up a song.



Using different objects and materials to create art. In this picture, children are using spiky balls and paint to create an amazing colorful painting.



Children continue to practice different activities that can help them recognize rhymes, found in stories, songs, riddles, poems and puzzles.



Children continue to practice different activities that can help them count and recognize numbers, found in books, songs, riddles, poems, puzzles, games and more indoor and outdoor activities.



Children are participating in dramatic play, such as restaurant, bakery, house, store and doctor.

Laguna's Indoor and Outdoor Activities



Using Legos as a way to learn how to stack, connect, and use their imagination.



Children continue to connect different manipulatives in order to build and use their inventiveness.



Pretending to cook together during pretend play.



Using bottle caps with a string to learn how to design and do patterns.



During sensory play: they play with slime, dough, water, paint, natural ingredients (flour, corn meal and more) in order to feel the texture and model figures.



Finding different ways to play with toys. In this picture, they are using toys (that are human shapes) to create different patterns.

More of Laguna's Indoor and Outdoor Activities



Important Announcements

Attendance

Signing your child in and out is a very important detail that every parent should continue to do upon arrival and upon leaving the premises.

Downloading the app on your phone, using the QR Code Key Card or using your Digit PIN Code are the three ways to sign your children in and out. Please contact us immediately if you are missing any of these three methods.

Children who are not properly signed in for the day and whose photo, video and note release have been signed will not be able to receive pictures, videos or messages during the day as the system will consider your child absent.

Make sure that the number of days your child attends is confirmed. (3, 4 or 5 days) An extra day charge will be applied on days not scheduled. Make sure your hours of attendance are within the agreed hours. Example: 7-5, 7:30-5:30, 8-6 PM or our extended hours 7-6 PM (approval is required for an additional cost of \$40.00 per week). Late pick up for anyone arriving after their scheduled

time has expired is \$3.00 per minute.

Wipes

Please remember to bring wipes according to the frequency you are assigned (once a month, every other month, or every 3 months).
*One bag a month- infants and non-potty trained children.
*One bag every other month- recently potty trained children and children under 4 years of age.
*One bag every 3 months- children who have been potty trained, go to the potty on their own and children older than 4 years old. Wipes are essential, so please remember to bring them. Make sure to ship them with your child's name to 3516 Laguna Ave. Oakland, CA 94602. Thank you!

Immunization Records

In order for children to attend child care and preschool, they will need be immunized and up to date with their vaccines.

Please bring us the most updated copy of your child's immunization records, every time your child receives a vaccination.

Monte Tavor's Days Closed

Spring Break (3 days) CLOSED
Wednesday-Friday March 28-30

Memorial Day CLOSED
Monday May 28, 2018

Spring Break (2 days) CLOSED
Thursday-Friday May 31-June 1

Upcoming Events

Crafts & Easter Egg Celebration
Monday 26 – Tuesday 27 March
Parents are welcome to plan and bring an activity. **9:00- 9:30 AM.**

April Fool's Day Celebration
Monday, April 2, 2018
Older Children will be learning to make friendly and fun jokes for everyone to enjoy!

Oakland Zoo Mobile Visit
Friday, April 6, 2018
9:00 - 9:30AM
at Laguna location

Earth Day Parent Volunteer Day
Thursday, April 19, 2018
9:00- 10:00AM
at Skyline location &
Friday, April 20, 2018
9:00- 10:00AM
at Laguna location
JOIN US!! Children and their families can join us on this day for a morning in the garden.

Animal Habitat Project Expo
Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:00- 9:30AM
At Skyline location &
Friday, April 27, 2018
9:00- 9:30AM
at Laguna location

WildCare Nature Van Visit
Thursday, May 24, 2018
9:00- 10:00AM
at Skyline location &
Friday, May 25, 2018
9:00- 10:00AM
at Laguna location

New Staff

We would like to introduce the following teachers in training who have recently joined our team as of January 2018.

Kenia Valdez

A student at Merritt College pursuing a degree in Psychology.

Yeni Vasquez

Worked as a teacher assistant with infants and toddlers.

Jennifer Vera

A current student majoring in child development.

Daisy Hernanadez

A current student at Cal State East Bay majoring in Child Development.

Monte Tavor Newsletter

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Best way to get in contact with

Monte Tavor is by calling or texting

(510) 967-2876.

E-mailing

montetavor.comunications@gmail.com

is another great way to get in contact with us during business hours.

Voice messages may not be listened to immediately.

Monte Tavor Preschool Laguna

3516 Laguna Avenue Oakland Ca 94602

and Monte Tavor Skyline Site

13463 Skyline Blvd Oakland Ca 94619

