



## Start of a New Year

Goodbye 2016, Hello 2017! We are very happy to begin the New Year with our current Monte Tavor family community as well as the new families joining us this year. We are excited to see the rapid growth of your children.

## Announcements

**Expansion-** Monte Tavor is expanding. A new Naturalist Outdoor Educational Program will be located at Skyline Blvd. We hope you are as excited as we are to see our Monte Tavor program and community of families grow!

**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 kids older than 4 years old.

Wipes are essential, so please remember to bring them. Please make sure to ship them to Your Name at 3516 Laguna Ave. Oakland, CA 94602. Thank you!

**SmartCare App-** Some families may have received notifications from the SmartCare app indicating your child was signed in/out on days your child was absent. Those notifications only indicate that a soft sign in/out was made by one of our staff members in the app in order for us to send you a note, upload pictures and/or assign groups. We hope you have been enjoying the moments!

★ **Amazing News...** Monte Tavor has won the award for the Best Preschool Program in Oakland for the second year in a row, we are grateful as a community and thank you for your undivided support. We couldn't have done it without you.

## Reminder

Re-enrollment contracts for the year 2017-2019 will be sent early March, keep an eye out for that email. They are due on or before March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## What are the kids up to?

**Babies**- The babies at Monte Tavor have been spending their time listening to songs by their teachers and frequently teachers use baby maracas to join in. The babies take part in free play by laying on their belly's or backs. Doing so encourages movement of their legs and arms. Babies are given their own space to crawl and move around to teach the comprehension of self-help concepts. Babies also use baby gyms to stimulate their sense of touch when grabbing and grasping toys above them. They also play with mouthing toys, made safely for that purpose, since babies love doing so. This way they develop their cognitive and physical skills through their sense of touch, feel and sight. We ensure babies get the most of their awake time by practicing their sensory and gross motor skills during this rapid growth stage. The friendliness, smiles and good life is for sure admired with this age group. We cannot wait to transition to the outdoors in a few weeks as spring slowly crawls in.

**Older Infants 12mo-18mo.**- This age group is practicing to transition from a crib to a mat, from taking two naps to one nap in the middle of day, although a second nap may still be necessary until they fully transition. Physical games and activities include pushing and pulling roll on cars, trains and tug a long toys. Musical boxes and toys that teach sounds of vehicles, and animals are among some of their favorites. Learning how to climb on softer equipment and using short tunnels are their most fun activities. This age group is participating more and more in the morning and afternoon circle story time activities; it is a joy to watch them sitting attentively. Singing songs and dancing activities are becoming more apparent in this age group. Children 15-18 months are participating in dancing, music and movement activities while using instruments such as bells, jingle bells, maracas, rain sticks, mini drums, and shakers. Art - utilizing crayons, oil pastels, and washable paints, while handling many art tools such as brushes, feathers, and cotton balls. Dramatic play boxes include - Family box, with mini cribs, strollers and dolls. Restaurant box, with food items. Fire fighter box, with rope hoses and firefighter hats.

**Toddler's 19mo-2 yr:** The toddlers at Monte Tavor have been spending their time singing along in Spanish and listening to their teachers read them books. During their free play period, they are given toys with music as well as stuffed animals and are highly encouraged to share amongst each other's. Teachers sing response songs which encourage the toddlers to respond with

1-2 words in Spanish, along with movements to keep them entertained.

Teachers have been making trips to the local library and have been sharing stories with the children about pets, sharing, families, friends, and learning how to be sensitive toward others. The mini backpack reading program, which usually takes place in the fall, has been scheduled for the spring time. The mini backpack project allow teachers to have children handle an actual mini backpack that comes full of props that are focused on a theme. Bag Pack reading themes include: Music, Sounds, Obstacles, Numbers, Sizes, Shapes, 5 Senses, and Rhymes among some. If a mini backpack is focused on nutrition it will come along with mini fruits and veggies for your child to play with and learn the name of. This encourages kids to be curious and teaches the correlation between food, health, and terms like "nutrition." (Please refer below for the different age groups of the mini bag pack reading)

**3-4 yr. old's**- The 3 and 4 year old's have been having lots of fun with coloring, cutting, using scissors, and pasting hearts. During their art time they created art pieces for their peers and family for Valentine's Day. During free time they play with toys that require connecting, and linking. These toys not only encourage children to use their creativity to make buildings, ships and many other lively representational structures, but also encourages sharing pieces and trading among themselves. All while practicing the Linda Brault Method on positive discipline. The focus on this method is still redirection, as well as taking an extra step to discuss the issue, by asking the following questions: What happened? How can we fix it or get it resolved? And How can it be prevented or done better next time? During journal time they may draw, color and explain to us what it is they drew. This encourages language development as well thinking about story mapping or storytelling. Once children continue to practice, the idea of drawing becomes more planned and organized into mini daily stories. Fine motors is usually the biggest challenge in this age group. Activities that help strengthen muscles for writing are such as using modeling and regular clay, pencils and colored pencils are highly encouraged at home.

**4-5 yr. old's**- The oldest group has a lot more going on. They begin the day practicing letters, their names, and the days of the week. Once they have finished their daily writing practice, they go on to draw and color before sharing what they have worked on. During playtime they play with toys that are buildable, therefore during those times the children are expected to share, be respectful and sensitive towards others as well as the materials. This group has been working on attentive listening skills as well as following

through with directions. We would like if this group practiced more writing and reading at home, in order to master their skills in preparation for their future journey in Kindergarten. This age group can certainly benefit from having clay at home to assist in strengthening their grips on pencils during coloring activities.

Kindergarten check lists and assessments are being completed and teachers will be working towards strengthening skills with children who seem to need help. The months of March, April and May will determine the actual accuracy of preparation for this age group in the areas of cognitive-language, logical thinking skills, fine motors, reading comprehension, and social-emotional skills. During conferences in May a complete assessment will be presented for each child.

Monte Tavor's food is provided. Children 12 months and older are encouraged to try many different kinds of vegetables, fruits, fish, a variety of beans and lentils as well as chicken and turkey.

## What is coming up ahead?

Infant groups 4-14 months will continue to work on self-concepts, physical skills, and language skills. The free choice and free play / play based schedules will be hopefully observed outdoors as planned. Children 15 months and older will be exploring our spring Science Fair theme on Animal Habits. The older the group the more habitats they will be exposed to and explore. They will ultimately work on a 3D sculpture or art piece based on their findings. Younger children may end up only having to read/look at books and magazines to learn and discover the different names and habitats of animals. Some of the habitats include: Farm, forest, ponds and lakes, sea, rainforest, dessert, African savanna, tropical birds, Arctic and Antarctic.

The mini Bag Pack Reading Program for Young Preschoolers will include: Environment, Health and Safety, Nutrition, Sequence, Plants, Alphabet Recognition, Shapes and Sizes. Older Preschoolers include: Climates, Writing, Adding and Subtracting Bag, Preposition, Growing Plants, Environment, Health and Nutrition.

Gardening and playing outdoors is among our highest priority, as weather allows it. We cannot wait to be outdoors!!!

## Keep Meeting Our Team!

### Teachers

- Yaneth Rivas (young three year old group)
- Glenda Valladares (Older three year old Group and 4 year old group)
- Silvia Gomez (Mobile Infant group 12-15 months)
- Iris Sanchez (young infant group 6-12 months)
- Ariana Lopez (graduate group)
- Victoria Amador (16 months- 24 months) and (24-36 months)

### Teachers in Training

- Consuelo Gomez (15 months to 18 months)
- Patricia Marisol Pineda (8-15 months)

### Assistants

- Maritza Figueroa
- Azucena Garcia

### Office Team

- Iris Lopez-Finance Book Keeper
- David Cash-Finance Manager
- Stephanie Martinez-Office Assistant

### Providers

- Humberto Iniguez
- William Howell
- Liz Howell
- Yeira Howell
- Angela Howell

Three of our Staff members will not continue to be a part of our team. We wish them well on their new goals, dreams, and future endeavors. We hope that the moments they experienced at Monte Tavor will serve as a great foundation.

Tania - who will be moving out of Oakland and working closer to home. We wish her well.

Reina- Due to personal health issues, will be taking a long leave. We will consider her return for next school year. We hope she recuperates soon.

Claudia- accepted a management position at her family friend's business.

We would like to welcome Stehanie Martinez as our Office Assistant, she has worked as a sitter for children and worked at Camp Galileo for the past three summers. She is excited to join our team, help with the SmartCare app, assist the office, teachers, and curriculum planning and executing.

We would like to welcome Anahi Gomez who is a certified behavioral therapist who will join us to implement our Linda Brault Method on positive discipline and translate and prepare teachers' observational assessments and checklists.

## Important Reminder!

It is crucial that payments, pickups and arrivals are met on time. Make sure you confirm or check your hours of attendance. Contractual fees will be enforced for late weekly tuition payments, late pickups, and early arrivals. We ask that you make sure that your child has the correct schedule of 7:00am-5:00pm, 7:30am-5:30pm, 8:00am-6:00pm or extended 7:00-6:00 pm, according to your contract and tuition agreement. We also want to remind everyone that payments through SmartCare, made with a Debit/Credit, undergo a fee of 2.75% applied to each payment charged by SmartCare. ACH transactions using your bank account are free-of-charge. We highly encourage everyone to meet this criteria to avoid any additional charges by SmartCare.

## Drop off and Pick up Information

As a precaution, we ask once more that parents no longer allow children to play anywhere located between the exits and sidewalk. The front steps of 3516-3512 are very steep and the areas covered in woodchips are slippery as well as dangerous, especially for young children of all ages. Please refrain from letting your child or children play in the aforementioned unsafe areas.

## Prohibited Parking

A reminder about prohibited parking. Please refer to our previous email for additional information. Main points are as follows: Undivided attention and awareness while maneuvering through Laguna Avenue. No more obstructing any part of the sidewalk to park. No more parking in ANY DRIVEWAY. BLOCKING THE DRIVEWAY OF 3520 LAGUNA WILL NO LONGER BE PERMITTED. Parking (parallel to street) permitted ONLY at 3516 Laguna as long as you are considerate of others (time-wise), when you drop off or pick up, and if no other parking presents itself.

We also ask to help us continue to have a healthy relationship with our neighbors as to never block any of their driveways at any given time. A few neighbors have mentioned that parents keep parking in their driveways and have been inconveniencing them. The harmonious relationship with our neighbors have been part of the success in continuing to offer our services for over 22 years to our community of families.

## New Monte Tavor Email Address

Monte Tavor will no longer use the email address of [hmontetavor@aol.com](mailto:hmontetavor@aol.com). We will now communicate through our other email address of [montetavor.communications@gmail.com](mailto:montetavor.communications@gmail.com). Through our means of communication, we encourage everyone to check their email for important notices, newsletters and reminders; together with the app for daily notifications, updates, and pictures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Monte Tavor. The contact information will be shown below.

## Monte Tavor's Graduates Core Curriculum Program

Parents of graduates' children who were not able to participate at the Core Curriculum meeting in the fall are welcome to request their informational packet at [montetavor.communications@gmail.com](mailto:montetavor.communications@gmail.com). Congratulations to the children and their families on their way to their journey to the transitional / kindergarten experience. You are welcome to ask questions about the different elementary schools and open houses being held this month and next month. During conference we will be able to discuss more about readiness and assessments for kindergarten for this age group.

## The new facility across Laguna Avenue

We are excited to see that children have been enjoying their new adventure play at the new Laguna facility. The covered area built in the outdoor area is already allowing children to engage in activities such as reading, group discussions, yoga exercises, and physical games. The multipurpose or Back Room has served its purpose of becoming a working area for activities such art, writing, and working on workbooks. Transitional and kindergarten children have been the utilizing the area for working on their Core Curriculum.

The serenity and outdoor ambiance under the fruit trees have challenged children to be mindful of their surroundings and reflect on feelings and understandings, being compassionate toward others and practicing listening skills. This is practiced daily. Classroom guidelines and expectations are monitored and on check daily. This is the age when children become very talkative.

**DAYS CLOSED and Events**

- **February 4<sup>th</sup>**, Open House Event for prospect families.
- **February 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**, Valentine's Day Celebrations, Parents from each class can plan an activity about friendship and celebrating about caring for others and loving their classmates, teachers, family members and all living creatures! 9:00-9:30 am.
- **February 20<sup>th</sup>**, President's Day, Closed Holiday.
- **March 4<sup>th</sup>**, School Open House for current (9:00am) and prospect (10:00am) families at Skyline.
- **March 17<sup>th</sup>**, Saint Patrick's Day. Parents are welcome to plan and bring an activity on this day. We would love to have children learn about the Irish Culture. 9:00-9:30 am.
- **March 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**, Celebration of Spring! Children can think of Spring time colors.
- **March 18<sup>th</sup>**, Teacher's Training 8:00am.
- **March 24<sup>th</sup>**, Animal Science Art Fair/Pot Luck 4:30-5:30 pm. Join us!!
- **April 1<sup>st</sup>**, April fool's Day Celebration. Older Children will be learning to make friendly and fun jokes for everyone to enjoy!

- **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, Oakland Zoo Mobile Visit. 9:00am-9:30am Join Us!
- **April 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**, Crafts and Easter egg hunt celebrations. Parents are welcome to bring an activity. 9:00-9:30am.
- **April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**, Spring Break! School closed.
- **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, Earth Day! Join us for a morning in the garden. 9:00am-10:00am.
- **April 24<sup>th</sup>**, Wild Care center visit. 9:30am-11:30am. Join us!

**Monte Tavor's Contact information**

You can always reach us 24 hours/7 days a week at

[montetavorpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:montetavorpreschool@gmail.com)

During business hours 7:00-6:00 pm  
(510) 967-2876 Cell Line

During non-business hours or leave messages  
(510) 531-3328 General Line

Website [www.montetavor.com](http://www.montetavor.com)

**Thank You Families!**

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's life and discovery years and we thank you for the continued support of our programs.



**Glenda**

I have worked at Monte Tavor for nine years. I have truly enjoyed working with the providers and the many children I have taught in my time here. I work with toddlers and preschoolers. I enjoy working with both groups equally. One of my favorite activities is teaching toddlers to develop their speech through songs; their different smiles and gestures are amusing to watch. Another one of my favorite activities is art and science with preschoolers; the imagination and creativity displayed at this age is astounding.



**Silvia**

I have worked for Monte Tavor for six years. Time flies in my line of work. I love working with children. I have seen so many little ones come and go and grow right before my eyes. I do not have a specific age group that I prefer working with because they are all different from each other. Different in their demeanor depending on their age and different in the age specific activities we have the children participate and work on. Not to mention, their individual personalities which vary not only by age but by child.



**Iris**

My name is Iris. Although I do not have children of my own, I have four nephews who mean everything to me. In retrospect I believe they may be the reason I truly enjoying working with children. While working at Monte Tavor, I have had the privilege of working with toddlers and preschoolers. At the current moment I work with infants. I have enjoyed the exposure to these different developmental stages because I feel that each individual age group has taught me different things.



**Claudia**

I have worked at Monte Tavor for four years. I returned to duty in July after being on maternity leave for one year. I work with toddlers and preschoolers. Besides coming in each morning and witnessing the children so happy to see us and their buddies, I enjoy dramatic play and art. During dramatic play I get the opportunity to witness the children dress up and play as doctors, teachers, and other roles they come up with and act out. I like art with the kids because it is fun to see how skillful they are at recreating their weekend or things they did with their families through colors, designs, and pictures.



**Ariana**

I have worked at Monte Tavor for three years. I work with the preschool group. What I enjoy most about working with children would have to be what I learn from day to day by observing how they express their feelings/emotions to one another and by listening to what their goals are. I always ask them what they want to be when they grow up. I can definitely see some of them being future doctors, vets, and even basketball players.



**Marisol**

My name is Marisol. What I enjoy the most is story time in the afternoon. The interest and attention children display to the story you are reading them is fun. The focus they have towards subjects or activities that they truly like is fascinating to me. You can sometimes see that they are imagining and getting lost in the story you are reading them.



**Consuelo**

My name is Consuelo and I am a teacher in training. I enjoy singing and playing with the children, but story time is fun as well. What is particularly interesting to me is the relationship between the providers/ teachers and the children. It is a joy to see such young children show so much trust and affection to adults other than their own parents. Working in an environment such as this makes it very easy to come in every morning.

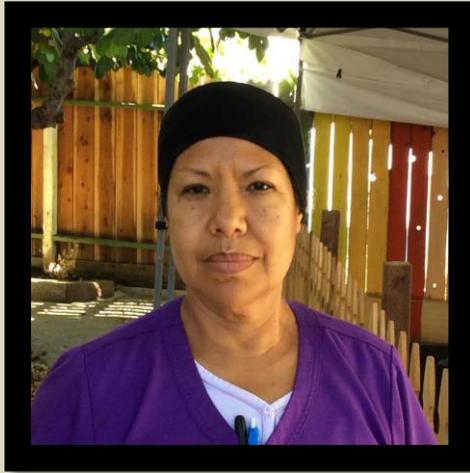
My name is Maritza, I am an assistant here at Monte Tavor and I love working with kids. I enjoy singing, playing and reading to the kids. I work with the toddlers and I get to see some of them go from crawling to walking and learning small words in Spanish which makes me feel great about what I do, even if it's just a word from a part of a song I feel great because they are actively listening and memorizing the songs.



**Esther**

My name is Esther. I work mostly with infants and young preschoolers. I have worked a total of four years at Monte Tavor; I was previously employed as a preschool teacher. Caring and teaching children has always been something that interested me. Mostly because of the satisfaction you feel when you see the children in your class or under your care excel. While working with infants, I think it is quite rewarding to hear a child finally able to say the word they have been mimicking. For example when a child is finally able to say “mama” after weeks of making sounds that sound similar. Another rewarding moment is when a child transitions to crawling or from crawling to their first steps. You see the gradual improvements weekly and even though you help them crawl or take steps, it always takes you by surprise when they walk or crawl on their own; like “hey, you weren’t doing that yesterday!”

My name is Martha and I work with toddlers here at Monte Tavor. I play with them, sing to them, and tell those stories, all in Spanish which makes me love my job. I’d like to become a teacher someday so I’m thankful Monte Tavor has given me the opportunity to work with kids and gain knowledge from this hands-on experience.



**Victoria**

I have been working with children for quite some time. I started taking care of children in my home, then as a nanny in parent's homes, followed by an in home child care, and now at Monte Tavor going on my third year as a teacher. I started as a teacher in training and moved up to a teacher. I enjoy teaching the children Spanish. Watching them slowly pronounce words and eventually speaking fluently and singing songs in Spanish brings me great joy.

My name is Azucena and this is my first year at Monte Tavor. I am really excited to be here so I can learn and gain skills and eventually become a teacher. The activities I do with the kids range from reading to them, to singing and playing with them. I enjoy coming to work because I am able to speak my native language as well as teach it to the kids, through songs and reading. Kids are amazing and they never stop learning so I feel great being able to be a part of their growth.