

Dear families,

In the spirit of thanksgiving, we would like to take this opportunity to give thanks for this school year, for our 22nd year of teaching, and for helping families raise such gifted children. On behalf of our staff, we would like to thank every family, currently attending or who have been a part of Monte Tavor during the past two decades, for choosing our program to help bring out the best in your precious little ones, and more so for being part of our small community of children and families, located in this wonderful part of the world, right here in Oakland, California.

This thanksgiving the founder -Angela Howell, providers, as well as staff will participate in a new event. This event will consist of cooking and preparing a warm meal for the homeless who are living along 12th street and 22nd Avenue. This group of homeless people were recently displaced by authorities who burned their tents and belongings. They have now returned to the area without most of their belongings or tents. Each year Monte Tavor providers get involved by donating time, food and money to a couple of the local churches in December. This year we are reaching out to those in need. If families are interested, we may begin an additional event consisting of donating a blanket or a coat during this cold winter season. Let us know if you would be interested and we can begin collecting blankets, coats or sleeping bags.

While the election brought a lot sadness to our immediate communities, we at Monte Tavor would like to say it has brought plenty of opportunities for the teachers and older preschoolers to learn about empathy. We have selected books from our current library and from Bare Foot Books to raise awareness to what it means to be kind. What it means to be global. And what it means to love more. As well as to expand our conversations on topics such as respect and celebrating differences. I personally had to answer my ten year old son's questions, after the election raised many inquiries within him that were new and concerning to him; simply because of his family being Hispanic. Last year, at my son's school's book fair, I came across a book called *What Does it Mean to be Global?* By Rana Diorio and Chris Hill. This past weekend we read it as a family and it served to create a discussion panel, that not only included our immediate family, but their grandmother and extended family members who also joined in the conversation. As you may imagine it got very hearty and interesting. Now, you may be thinking, "I have a baby that does not quite understand what is happening yet." And, while that may be very true, we should also consider that in almost no time at all, your precious baby will grow up and you will just as soon need answers for all their questions relating to the world around them or behaviors that may sometimes occur during preschool years. In case you already aren't, we invite you to get in the habit of reading for a meaning. There are many books that raise awareness to not only children, but also to all of us as parents.

The annual Book Fair with Barefoot Books, is more for families to have an opportunity to support children's learning at home. Monte Tavor together with Barefoot Books take pride in presenting books that encourage learning about the world and its many different cultures. Over the last couple of years, parents and Monte Tavor have partnered to cultivate and embrace the use of the Spanish language by making sure every Spanish

book from Barefoot Books is available to be read to children here at school as well as at home (collections of available CD's and translated books are available) Children are read these stories over and over and they enjoy the reading moments. This is the main reason that this year's Wish List is geared more towards acquiring games, puzzles, and stickers, with only a few of the new books, since we already have almost all of their small Spanish collection of books.

If you have taken home a Barefoot Book catalog (or would like to get one) and have not had the chance to look through it, we encourage you to do so. We invite you to at least read the cover introduction by Nancy Traversy and Tessa Strickland, CEO's and Editor in Chief. Here are a few of their quotes that I would like to share, for they really caught my attention.

"Today more than ever, children need diverse, inclusive and inspiring books."

"We all want to raise the next generation to become global citizens who see the connections between all people, but who are also sensitive to the differences that make us unique."

"We invite you browse these pages and discover all the ways in which you can join our movement to open hearts and minds through the power of stories."

I believe their Catalog was printed quite some time before elections took place. Monte Tavor would love to participate in the movement of Global Awareness, by "opening our hearts and minds through the power of stories." In your homes, at your new school communities, and even to those families who are no longer part of Monte Tavor, we invite you to join us spread the word.

If you come across other books in Spanish that are worth reading and celebrates differences, feel free to get us a copy. We have attached a Barefoot Books Wish List for this season. We hope you participate at least in getting the *Book of Children* for your own child or children. It is a must have! We cannot wait to have a couple of copies here at Monte Tavor.

If you feel you would like to share any topics, comments, or messages that can be shared among the Monte Tavor community, we will be happy to put them together to continue the conversation on Global Awareness and learning more about empathy and being kind. Let's all join the movement right here among our own children and families.

Lastly, Monte Tavor's would like to give thanks to all families for the wonderful opportunity of teaching young children over the two decades.

May we all give thanks with a graceful heart.

Happy Thanksgiving!!! And let's continue to raise remarkable children!

Let's join the movement! We would love to hear from you.

Thank you!

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Special thanks to our entire staff for making Monte Tavor a wonderful place for children and their families.

Attachments area