

Monte Tavor Newsletter

Welcome back everyone!!!

We hope you enjoyed the time you spent with your families and your precious little ones during the Winter Break.

The first week we were back, we saw children running in to say hello and rushing to find their friends and teachers for a warm welcome back hug. Children in every older group seemed talking about places they went to, who they visited, movies they saw, and giving back details in every emotion and excitement they projected to tell about their time away. Teachers and providers were also very ready to come back, rejuvenated and excited to be back at Monte Tavor.

We can certainly say that it was a week of smiles, hugs and excitement and we topped it off with the Friday Tea Party that every 3 year old and older were looking forward to it. Some waited for their parents very anxiously and because some families could not be here, we promised to have a tea party just for the three year olds and older children Wednesday January 22nd; although the weather is getting warmer for tea, but we guess, we will not have the tea as warm.

Thank you for joining that Friday! It was certainly a pleasure having all of you. Children and families came in waves, had a moment with each other and grabbed a cup of tea. The children definitely loved it!!!

Special thanks for those moms and a dad who joined their children during story time. Children were so proud to see you there! We hope you can join us again on another afternoon! This gave us the idea that we should plan for a Friday Story Time Party!!!

IN School Activities

The Bag Pack Morning Reading Program for older infants and toddlers will continue until the end of February. Children's attention span has increased from a few minutes to almost 20 minutes of reading and we feel it has been a great accomplishment. We ask that you continue to read at home every night. Bag Pack reading themes include: Music, Sounds, Obstacles, Numbers, Sizes, Shapes, 5 Senses, and Rhymes among some.

Emergent themes are being continued to be part of everyday activities. Physical games and outdoors are keeping children busy and motivated to create more exciting themes.

Bag Pack Reading for Young Preschoolers will also continue until the end of February and those include: Environment, Health and Safety, Nutrition, Sequence, Plants, Alphabet Recognition, Shapes and Sizes. Older Preschoolers include: Climates, Writing, Adding and Subtracting, Preposition, Growing Plants, Environment, Health and Nutrition.

Children 15 months and older will continue with the science fair exploration activities until the end of this month more so concentrating on the magnets, magnetic sand instruments and solid/liquid masses.

Public Speaking and Sharing Activity

As of next week 3 ½ to 5 years will be doing their public speaking and discussion sessions once a week on Wednesdays. The topics need to be related to something that you and your child have previously prepared, discussed or shared about. These include special birthday parties they plan or had; special gifts from mom, dad, grandparents and other family members; a photo album of the child or the entire family; a piece of art or artifact that may have a history, sharing moments from events they attended;

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In-School Activities

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Collections of rocks, sea shells, leaves, buttons, mini-books, post cards, stickers; Monte Tavor art or crafts; children can wear cultural costumes and talk about the country of origin; Children can share about their soccer class, music or ballet class; Children can recite a poem, sing a song, play an instrument or show instruments they have at home, but are not limited to books, stories about themselves, a trip or vacation they took etc. Those were some of the ideas, but we are sure you have a lot more to share with your child for his /her class activity.

Children do not need to participate every Wednesday, but at least once a month or every couple of months. We want to give opportunities to everyone in each of the groups. If you prefer, you can e-mail us to let us know about the topic, so we can help your child get his or her presentation ready. Make sure any item brought is labeled and it is in a bag or a backpack.

Piñata Party and Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., We will be stressing on how he dreamed about people getting along and being friends with each other no matter who they were or how they looked (we will keep it at the age level and simple). Children will learn that caring for each other, respecting each other and understanding each other will be better in the end for everyone in order to be happy and live healthy lives. Children will discuss about the importance to come up with solutions when there are conflicts and reach the goal of getting along with each other. This topic will take us to the next month for Valentine's Day, where we will be discussing friendships!

Chinese New Year and Chinese Culture

During the week of 1/27/2014, children will be learning about the Chinese Culture and the New Year. Your child is welcome to bring items that represent the culture or books to read.

We hope you can help your child participate.

Winter 2014 Calendar

January 2014

- <u>1/10 Tea Party</u>
- 1/20 Closed for Martin Luther King Jr.
- 1/21 Children's Pinata Party and celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.

<u>1/28-1/31 Chinese New Year Activities</u> and Celebration

• 1/22 Public Speaking and Sharing time

Infants and Toddlers News

We would like to welcome the following children and their families: Verona (Savoy's sister); Kai (Maya's brother); Shiva; Shaler and Haven, who have recently joined our community of children and parents,. Welcome to Monte Tavor!!

We have two groups of infants and toddlers that are transitioning into a toddler group and an older Toddler group as they have recently turned 18-24 months and 24-30 months. One big advancement with these age groups is how focused they are becoming into the different activities such as Art, sensory, building, science, discovery, Dramatic Play, Music and Movement and reading. It is such a delight to see them all participating in their little groups and working with each other!

The used to be young infants are turning a year old! And will be now in our mobile / older infant category. Some of them are just about to start walking and transitioning into our Monte Tavor foods! Let's keep an eye for allergies and be prepared for the bumps! As they are moving!

Thank You Families!

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