



## Monte Tavor Newsletter

Year after year, as March approaches, Monte Tavor members and teachers begin to think about spring. We not only associate this time of the year with art projects, animal habitats, outdoor time, and assessments and observations for each of the children across all ages, but also as a friendly reminder that summer dance shows, deadlines for graduates to finalize their core curriculum, water play and outdoor time are just around the corner. We anticipate this time of year and wish it came a little sooner as we continue to think about indoor activities for the currently chilly weather and rainy season.

We also recognize that you as a parent may also be beginning to think about potty training your toddler, summer vacation, camping trips, summer holiday celebrations, BBQ's and ultimately to have the opportunity to spend time with your child or children along with family members. We realize that we are nearing what a majority may consider the best time of year or a close second to the winter holiday season for those of you who love to celebrate with high spirit. Monte Tavor enjoys this time of year as well. It's a time where families unite to enjoy their time with their children along with animal themes, potlucks, earth day celebrations, spring/summer dance events, and now our annual family picnic/ potluck at Ardenwood. Also, the cultural event, science and exploration, and the new upcoming school year celebration. Monte Tavor plans all these family events with the opportunity to bring you closer to the school environment and its community.

Children who are here for their last year will certainly have the chance to enjoy Monte Tavor's outdoors for one more summer and leave with lasting memories. Families who will be departing will be very much missed. We hope that when they come back to visit, we will have continued to grow as a place to teach and develop young minds, while still continuing to provide the same caring and loving environment that they were once a daily part of. We would like to thank not only the graduates and their families, but every family and child who has ever been part of our programs. We would have never reached 20+ years without everyone one of you.

On the Monte Tavor's website you will find our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration [Events](#). The calendar is filled with celebrations and activities around holidays and seasons. These celebrations and activities are part of the emergent themes which help contribute to more activities with the main focus on already existing community roles in the dramatic/pretend play activity centers. Some of the props used include: hats, costumes, jewelry, shoes, accessories, and tools; sparking imagination and many conversations among children from older infants to older preschoolers. These themes and celebrations add to the social emotional development component; which are the two main key factors for strengthening children's developing self-beings. Now, the teacher's app will help record your child's day, week or even month. This information will be sent to the Parents app where parents will also be able to see these developmental milestones. Teacher's observations will be journaled from these records and will certainly help all of us to better understand the developmental portion of your child. We feel that at Monte Tavor this new system may be provoking a very fascinating science inquiry in child development for teachers, providers and parents alike. At this point and time, observations have always been written based on what teachers visually observe and record on notepads, but with this new tool we are approaching a more accurate and efficient observation method. The month of April will be host for our teacher trainings and test month for the teacher's app. Teachers are currently being trained on the use of the app. Please be aware that you may receive test messages on your child's profile.

### Re-Enrollment Contracts

If your current Monte Tavor Contract is expiring July 2016, you should have received a re-enrollment contract for your specific child or children. Please be sure to check your e-mail messages. If for any reason you have not received an email, please let us know; we will resend it. Re-enrollment contracts are due on March 31, 2016 by 5:00 pm. Families whose contract expire in 2017 do not need to do any further action.

**Drop off and Pick up Information**

**Winter 2016**

While we all are still getting used to the new sign in and out experience, we ask that if you forget one of the three options, (phone App, Key card or your 8 digit pin) to please tell the greeting teacher or provider to sign your child or children in or out. The teacher or provider will do so as soon as a moment presents itself. But, if for any reason the teacher or provider does not accurately input the correct time, they will not be held fully accountable for such error. For this reason we ask that you always bring your phone App, key card or memorize your 8 digit pin code. April 4, 2016 is our official start date for SmartCare. Policies and procedures that are already part of the Monte Tavor Parent Agreement, such as late fees, have been provided to SmartCare and will be reflected on your billing summary account and statements. You will be able to see your billing account and statement along with other information in the SmartCare app. You should be receiving an e-mail with more instructions from SmartCare soon. We may be able to take payments during the first couple of weeks until we get used to using the new system. Families who have already made an advanced payment will not receive a bill until the next time your bill is due.

On another very important note. As a precaution we ask parents to no longer allow children to play anywhere located between the exits and sidewalk. The front steps of 3520-3512 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 such unsafe areas.

Lastly, a reminder about prohibited parking. Please refer to our previous email for additional information. In the meantime the main points are as follows: Undivided attention and awareness while maneuvering through Laguna Avenue. No more obstructing any part of the sidewalk for parking. No more parking IN ANY driveway. BLOCKING the driveway of 3520 Laguna will no longer be permitted. Parking (parallel to street) permitted ONLY as long as you are considerate to others (time-wise), when you drop off or pick up and if no other parking presents itself.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation. Monte Tavor has always had a great relationship with neighbors in regards to parking and traffic and we would like to continue so.

**DAYS CLOSED and Events**

- **MARCH 5, Open House Event (New Families Enrolling)**
- **MARCH 15-16 CRAFTS AND EASTER EGG HUNT spring activities**
- **CLOSED MARCH 23-25 SPRING BREAK**
- **April 1<sup>st</sup> April's Fool Day**
- **April 8, 2016 Oakland Zoomobile Visit 9:00 am Join us!!**
- **April 22, 2015 Earth Day Parent Volunteer Day. Spend the morning in our gardens 9:00-10:00 am Join us!!**
- **May 14, 2016 Toddler Dance Event at 10:00 am Join us!! [RSVP](#)**
- **May 16-20 Parent Teacher Conferences. Schedule on line [Conferences](#)**
- **Closed May 30 Memorial Day**
- **Closed June 2-3 SPRING BREAK**
- **June 10, 2016 Wild Care Visit 9:00 am**
- **June 18, 2016 Ardenwood Farm Family Picnic and Pot Luck 10:00 am Join us!!**
- **CLOSED July 4 Independence Day**
- **July 16, 2016 Summer Dance/Graduation**
- **CLOSED July 25-30 Summer Break**

**Monte Tavor's Contact information**

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

[hmontetavor@aol.com](mailto:hmontetavor@aol.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.