A-T Hours of Operations at Both Sites

AM session: 7:00a-8:20a / PM session: 3:30p-6p
(after 6:01p, staff will contact you for an ETA, and late charges will be applied to your household account or must be paid by check upon arrival.)

Please see the program handbook for additional information pertaining to Adventure Time policies.

CH Site: Entry is at door 17
FG Site: Entry is at door 15
(ring buzzer for admittance at each site)

*If the site has to change locations or is outside on the grounds of the school, there will be a sign posted alerting you. There are no staff in the building when this sign is posted. You must call into the site for entry. Staff will advise you as to which door they will meet you at with your child.

A-T Staff Currently On Duty in Program
Mrs. Shakin  Director
Ms. Patel  Lead Assistant
Program Assistants:
Mr. Sheesley  Mr. Ortega
Ms. Funk  Ms. Horner
Ms. Haywood
Ms. Miraflor (new)  Mrs. O’Leary (new)

Please keep in mind all staff rotate sites on a regular basis.

Drop In Service Availability
AT has the availability to provide drop-in care if your child is already enrolled in AT. This drop-in service provides care for a day that your child does not normally attend the program. A 24hr. notice must be phoned into the site your child attends prior to attending. Drop-in is available for the following charge: $10 for AM session, $15 for PM session or $25 for both. This charge is billed to your monthly credit card on file. Drop-in is not available for any SIP or Teacher Institute Days without a two week prior notice.

If you have any questions or seek any information about the A-T program you may use our email at: adventuretime@gepark.org; you will receive a reply in a timely manner. This email should not be used for schedule changes or absences of any participant. You must phone those directly into the site.

If you need to contact the AT Program for call-offs or late pick-ups, please call your child’s Adventure Time program phone #:

**Forest Glen:** 630-303-3127  **Churchill:** 630-303-3128
Dear Parents,

Many children will remember how their families at home felt during these difficult times much more than anything about this virus. Our children are watching us and learning how we respond during uncertain times. Let’s make sure our children remain resilient and not fearful.

This story and activity below was recently sent out from a Waldorf school. It sends a message of hope to all. I am hoping you will share this with your family.

The Four Candles

Preparation before story is read.
Please set out 4 candles in holders to be lit under a parent’s supervision.

The Four Candles burned slowly.
They shone so softly you could hear them speak.
The first candle said, “I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit.”
Then Peace’s flame slowly diminished and went out completely. (gently, blow out this candle).
The second candle said, “I Am Trust, but these days, people believe they no longer need me.”
Then Trust’s flame slowly diminished and went out completely. (gently, blow out this candle)

Sadly, the third candle spoke, “I Am Love and I haven’t the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don’t understand my importance. Sometimes they even forget to love those who are nearest to them.” And waiting no longer, Love went out completely. (gently, blow out this candle)

A child entered the room and saw the three candles no longer burning.
The child asked softly,
“Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit forever and ever”

Then the Fourth Candle spoke gently to the little boy, “Don’t be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles.”

With shining eyes, the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles. (slowly light the other three candles with the fourth)

And so, we never let the Flame of Hope go out.

With Hope in our lives, Peace, Trust and Love may shine brightly once again.

We as the staff of the program are missing all of the children in the programs dearly and hope that everyone is healthy and well. We send our best to all. We will see you soon.

Joyfully,

Mrs. Shakin and
All of the Staff of the Adventure Time Program
Hear Ye, Hear Ye

AT Email
This email functions as a way for parents to receive answers who are seeking questions about the program, have comments or would like to make suggestions. An email sent by a parent is usually responded to within a few hours and only when the program is not in session. The AT email cannot be accessed while AT is operating. **It is not for any changes in a child’s attendance in the program, as it is important that those changes are called into the site directly.**

FG Site (630) 303 3127  CH Site (630) 303 3128

AT Email: adventuretime@gepark.org

**Weekly Message from AT Staff (while program closed)**
**Parents:** Please check emails regularly during this time. Each week, I (Mrs. Shakin) will be sending some inspiring thoughts to the parents and some activities for the children enrolled in AT. Just a way to stay in touch while we are closed and to let the children know they are being thought about each day.

**Children Chatter**
While you are at home and doing e-learning, take a break and enjoy this in-house scavenger hunt. Please take a plastic or paper bag to gather these items.

**Items to be gathered:**

- 1 toy with wheels
- 1 book with the first letter of your name on the cover in the title
- 1 pair of matching socks
- 4 things that are the color green
- 1 item that is very soft
- 1 toy or school supply that is smaller than your hand
- 1 book that has numbers in it
- 5 Lego’s or wooden blocks that are different in shapes and colors
- A photo of someone you love
- 1 piece of a ribbon or a bow
- 1 ball of slime or play dough
- 1 toy that has 3 different colors on it
- 1 copper penny
- 1 paper clip
- 1 rubber band
- 1 bottle of water or juice
- 1 bag of snacks

After you find all of these items, take a short rest, drink your bottle of water or juice and eat your bag of snacks for the excellent job you have done. Then put all of these items back in their homes where you found them.

**Other ideas when house-bound:**
- Grab your bubbles, go in your back yard and blow bubbles.
- Grab your sidewalk chalk and decorate the concrete around your home with inspiring messages and pictures
- Put on a fairy tale story puppet show for mom & dad. The back of your couch can be used as your theatre. Socks can be made into puppets.
- Do a portrait of your family pet
- Using a deck of cards, build a house of cards
- Read the following story... [The Great Pause - A Tale for Young Children](#) (on the next page)
Once upon a time, in a land far away, but not too far away, in a time long ago, but not too long ago, there was a lovely little kingdom of very hard workers. This kingdom was built up of four villages, each ruled by a wise and kind Queen. There was the North village, the South village, the East village and the West village.

The North village was a rugged and mountainous land where the people worked hard forging tools for the kingdom and lumbering wood for houses.

In the East village was the sea where fishermen spent their warm days on the sea and merchants worked tirelessly to make and trade crafts and goods.

In the South village farmers tended their fields and animals, working tirelessly to feed the kingdom.

In the West there was a towering city of skyscrapers where folks worked on their computers and had many meetings to run the business of the kingdom.

While the adults worked each day, the children of the kingdom would all come together to play in the magic forest around the well in the center of the kingdom.

The children sang and danced together, made houses for the wee folk, and played many a circle game around the old well. At the end of their tired days, it was the children’s work to bring a bucket of water back to each of their homes in the kingdom. Everyone in the kingdom knew that the water from the well was the best for washing, cooking, and nourishing themselves for it always had a magical quality that was said to have come from the wee folk of the magic forest.

One day when the adults were coming home from a long day’s work, and the children were saying farewell to their friends and filling their buckets to take home, something very strange happened. One little child who was tired from his play decided to take a long drink of the water from his bucket. His friends noticed that after he drank the water, his body stood still as a statue. It was as if he had turned to stone.

The children quickly ran home to tell their families. One child went to his home in the North and was greeted by his parents who were just returning from their work in the mines. Their faces and hands were covered in soot, and as the child tried to explain what he saw at the well, his parents began to wash off the soot with the water from his bucket. As soon as they splashed their faces with the water, they too stood as still as stone, with water dripping off of their noses.

In the East, a child came home to his parents who were tailors. They had brought their sewing to the supper table and said that they simply couldn’t stop to eat. They would have to eat while they sewed in order to make their quota. The child prepared some porridge using the water from the well, and as each one took a bite of their supper, without looking up from their work, they too turned as still as stone.

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One child brought their water home to a farm in the South. The Farmers were so excited to have a fresh bucket of water to water the crops with but as soon as the water sprinkled over the cornfield, each stalk stood as still as stone, and not a breeze could bend nor stir them. The child who went home to the big city brought his bucket up to his apartment where his family was working away on their computer screens. They didn’t even notice the boy trip on the carpet and spill his water on the floor but the splash from the spill sent drips and drops flying about which landed on the computers, phones, and furniture. Suddenly, they too were stilled.

The people in the kingdom did not know what to do, so of course, they asked the Queens for help.
The Queens decided together to make a royal decree: All families must stay home together. No one was allowed to go to work, and the children were not allowed back to the well in the forest. “How long must we stay home?” asked the families. “Until we tell you it is safe,” said the Queens. So, all of the people in the kingdom went home and tucked themselves into their homes together and waited. The first few days at home were fun but after many days had passed, the adults began to worry about all of the work that had to be done, and the children began to wiggle and miss their friends! Day after day passed as they waited to hear from their Queens.

Meanwhile, the Queens had gathered themselves at the Well. They worked together to drain the well of water, which took many days, for it was very deep, and they were working carefully so as not to drip a single drop onto themselves. After many days of emptying bucket after bucket, they finally reached the bottom of the well, though they could not see it. They sent down a bird to inspect the well and see if anything looked suspicious. Indeed, the bird found a dark grey stone covered in moss, sitting at the bottom of the well. When the bird brought this up to the Queens they immediately knew who the stone belonged to. “Old Moss Woman!” they called out together.

When they said her name, the tiniest little woman covered in moss appeared dancing around their feet, the wisest of the wee folk, Old Moss Woman. “Is this stone yours?” asked the Queens. “We know that you would do no harm to the people of our kingdom, but it seems this stone has poisoned our water.” “My dears,” said Old Moss Woman, “have your people had a good long rest? It is no poison at all, but simply a pause for your people to remember what is most important. You will find after they’ve had this good long rest, they will return in high spirits!” She took her mossy stone and disappeared quickly amongst the leaves on the forest floor.

Just as she had promised, indeed, after a long time at home together, the people of the kingdom found new joy in spending time with their families. Especially those who were so tired from their work that they were as still as stone, for they needed that sleep so badly! When they awoke from their stillness they were invigorated with energy. The Queens invited everyone to gather in the magic forest around the well once more and announced that everyone could now come back to be together again. The children were overjoyed to see their friends whom they had missed, and the people decided that they could leave their work at work from now on and enjoy the little pauses each day. They all lived happily ever after...
**Rhythm of the Day Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM</th>
<th>Monday thru Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00a</td>
<td>Site opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00-7:55a</td>
<td>Arrival of children - board game play or drawing (children not wishing to participate may read a book or do homework as an alternative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:55a</td>
<td>Clean-up song, morning games begin (children not wishing to participate may talk w/their friends, play a quick board game, draw, read a book or do homework while waiting for dismissal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15a</td>
<td>Morning game stops, children get ready for dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:20a</td>
<td>Children are dismissed to classrooms with belongings (only children working safety patrol are released before 8:20a, no others w/o Director or lead staff approval)</td>
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**PM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PM</th>
<th>Monday thru Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30-3:45p</td>
<td>Attendance and arrival of children. Daily Announcements lead by AT Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45-4:00p</td>
<td>Shortened Transitional Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:30p</td>
<td>Restroom break in preparation for snack &amp; meal verse</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30-5:30p</td>
<td>Activity of the day (children not wishing to participate may read a book or do homework)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mondays:</strong></td>
<td>FG (Rec Game) / CH (Free Play)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesdays:</strong></td>
<td>CH (Rec Game) / FG (Free Play)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesdays:</strong></td>
<td>Activity of the Week (Minute to Win it Games)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursdays:</strong></td>
<td>Free Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fridays:</strong></td>
<td>Simple activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30-5:50p</td>
<td>Evening Mode &amp; Clean-up (small board games are made available at this time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:50-6:00p</td>
<td>Children will be gathering belongings and waiting for parent’s arrival</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00p</td>
<td>Site closes for the day</td>
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Please keep in mind that the staff may adjust the above times to include outdoor time on a regular basis each week. SIP/Teacher Institute Days differ with the scheduling of the day for special events.

**Come Follow Us Through The Seasons**

As Spring starts to bloom and the butterflies, flowers & even Lilac bushes return, we in the AT program too hope to begin to slowly emerge back into our daily activities.

This month due to the unexpected closures of AT last month, we will finish up with some of the activities that were planned for last month but unable to be done. A beautiful story about St. Patrick’s Day, the last of our bird activities and even some noodle hockey games.

After those activities are finished, we then move on to “Minute to Win It challenges”. These challenges have the children in participating in teams to see how fast an activity can be done with staff recording the times. For example: stacking cups, a relay race with wooden eggs, how fast can u sing a song in a minute, how many knots can you do on a piece of rope in a minute, etc. Children love these challenges and are sure to have fun.

Due to warmer weather on its way, the staff is also planning on getting in more outdoor time each week and observing the flowering plants that are starting to bloom, the butterflies that may be coming out and all of the birds that have returned to our area after Winter.

**Coming in May:**

5-15 **Kid’s Flea Market**
(Note to parents, while AT is closed, it may be a good time to start decluttering your child’s toys and other child related items for this sale. Please put into a box and mark AT, for delivery to AT during May)

5-25 **Memorial Day observance. AT closed for the day.**

5-28 **Good-Bye Party for all AT 5th graders that are moving on to Hadley. 4-5p at each site. Invitations will be sent out to your 5th grader**