



Feast of the Ascension – 12 May 2024

D8 KIDS MOVING AHEAD



MoveAhead, the world's first motion tracking and analytics platform designed to enhance children's physical and digital skills, has been helping over 100 local schoolchildren in Dublin 8 to 'get ahead' with its innovative Smart Moves programme.

Working in

partnership with The Digital Hub and as part of a Smart D8-supported pilot, MoveAhead evaluated the skills of over 500 local schoolchildren, resulting in 100 children taking part in the six-week programme to develop their skills. The Smart Moves programme aims to increase digital literacy and physical literacy skills through an innovative curriculum that uses technology to get children moving. Research shows that on average children now spend 6 hours a day on screens, resulting in a lack of physical movement and almost 90% of kids struggle with fundamental activities such as hopping and running. Speaking on the Smart Moves programme, Dr Johann Issartel, Co-founder of MoveAhead said: "MoveAhead aims to solve a skills challenge in children by meeting them where their interests lie, in digital technology. By working with children to create games that not only enhance their movement skills but also analyse where these skills may be low, we can accurately pinpoint improvements to ensure that children are moving differently and develop their motor skills." Using MoveAhead technology, children were empowered to design video games and used their own bodies as controllers to harness their movement skills in an identical way to regular play time. The games run on any camera device and can be played in school or at home, providing feedback for teachers, parents and children to help understand and improve their movement performance. Owing to its success, Smart Moves more than doubled the original target of reaching 200 schoolchildren and resulted in the addition of a further three weeks of the Smart Moves initiative to five afterschool programs, bringing a lasting impact on children in the locality. Commenting on the partnership with MoveAhead, Stephen Brennan, Head of Strategy and Partnerships at The Digital Hub said: "This programme plays a critical role in providing a solution to a challenge that is facing many families by using the growing interest in digital technologies to advance movement skills in children, and the Smart Moves programme is a prime example of how this can be done. We look forward to seeing this critical programme progress and benefit those in our community and wider Dublin area." The Smart Moves programme aims to improve knowledge and understanding of physical activity and digital literacy, develop positive attitudes towards physical activity, improve motor competency levels and increase physical activity levels. It also seeks to enhance digital skills, as well as develop critical thinking and online safety skills and build confidence among children in an increasingly digital world. Using the movement data results and feedback from children and teacher experiences with the Smart Moves programme, the curriculum is now being refined and the supporting digital tools updated to best support a differentiated and personalised approach to curriculum delivery.

For more information about MoveAhead and the Smart Moves programme, visit: <https://moveahead.io/>

Brass Band

The summery sounds of St George's Brass Band will fill St Audoen's Park this weekend as part of Culture Date With Dublin 8. Sunday 12th May from 2:30pm. All welcome and why not pay a visit to the fabulous St. Audoen's Church Visitor Centre as well.



Trees in the Tenters

A street landscaping project at Blackpitts has been completed, adding trees and planting to what had been a rather bleak expanse of footpath between Clanbrassil Terrace and Donovan Lane.



Gospel Choir Concert

Renowned and award-winning Gardiner Street Gospel Choir and its band collaborate with Mayo Concert Orchestra to bring their new high-energy 'Spirit & Soul' concert to the Helix Theatre on Saturday, May 18, at 8pm. Tickets are available from The Helix box office at 01 7007000 or from <https://thehelix.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173653118/>.



Remembered this Weekend

Bobby May (4th A)
Denis, Julie & Pat Hyland
Leo Farrell
Richard & Mary Finn
John Ryder
Tommy May & Phyllis Irvine
Teresa Hynes & her two sons
Philip & David



Bereavement Support

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the Lord, let us remember God's immense love and his hopes for us.

You challenge us to seek new possibilities.
Lord have mercy

You challenge us to be hopeful in the face of despair.
Christ have mercy

You challenge us to be creative in facing our life's journey. Lord have mercy

May our loving and creative Lord, give us confidence in his mercy, forgive us our sin and accompany us on the journey of our life. Amen

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and I taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: here at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, your love draws us together as one people, yet blessed with a wonderful diversity. We praise you. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, you are the Living Word of God, filling us with hope, imagination and creativity. We praise you.
Lord hear us

Holy Spirit of God, you are the inspiration that draws us out of the circle of our own lives to serve the world, generously and gladly. We praise you. Lord hear us

We remember, with joy and thanksgiving, all those who have died and especially those who have died needlessly through violence, hunger and war. May we be united again in the kingdom of God's love. Lord hear us

Lord, in a world where we often feel helpless, may we, with your love, continue to believe in our own ability to work for a just and fair society. Lord hear us

In quiet we remember all who need our prayer and support.Lord hear us

Reflection

In out-of-the-way places of the heart, Where your thoughts never think to wander, This beginning has been quietly forming, Waiting until you were ready to emerge. For a long time it has watched your desire, Feeling the emptiness growing inside you, Noticing how you willed yourself on, Still unable to leave what you had outgrown. It watched you play with the seduction of safety And the gray promises that sameness whispered, Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent, Wondered would you always live like this. Then the delight, when your courage kindled, And out you stepped onto new ground, Your eyes young again with energy and dream, A path of plenitude opening before you. Though your destination is not yet clear You can trust the promise of this opening; Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning That is at one with your life's desire. Awaken your spirit to adventure; Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk; Soon you will be home in a new rhythm, For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

John O'Donohue