

November 2016

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1  
Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grades 1/2 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco  
Teacher

Grade 1 and  
Grade 2

**Language Arts:** Students will continue to develop phonetic awareness, expand their vocabulary, and study a literature unit entitled "Our Place in Space." Topics include:

#### Phonics

- Beginning consonant blends: bl-, cl-, fl-, gl-, pl-, sl- br-, cr-, dr-, fr, gr-, pr-, tr-, sc-, sp-, st-, sw-, sk-, sm-, sn-, and tw-
- Beginning digraph blends: shr-, and thr-
- Sight words including: *goes, anything, begin, down, know, after, mother, father, and only*

#### Vocabulary

- Traffic and travel words
- Compound words
- Animal words

#### Literature

- *Poems About the Weather, Our Earth in Space, By the Light of the Moon, The Eagle on the Moon, Women in Space, The Pine Tree and its Needles*

**Christian Education:** Students in Grade 1 have been enraptured with the many exciting stories in the book of Genesis! In November, students will continue to study the lineage of the great patriarch Abraham. Stories include:

- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

**History/Geography:** Students are always eager to travel back through history and learn what life was like in another time and place! In November, students will discover what life was like for the early Greeks. Specifically, students will study:

- The Mycenaeans
- The Greek Dark Ages
- The Greek alphabet
- The stories of Homer
- The first Olympic Games

**Mathematics:** In mathematics, Grade 1 students will conclude a unit on shapes and patterns. Students will then move on to a unit entitled *Ordinal Numbers* in which they will study both ordinal numbers and position words. The month will conclude with a unit on *Numbers to 20*. During this unit, the following topics will be covered:

- Counting to 20
- Place value
- Comparing numbers
- Making patterns
- Ordering numbers

## Grade 1 – The Grammar Stage

Innova Academy's grammar school curriculum builds a solid academic foundation, emphasizing mastery of facts and fundamental skills. Grammar stage students have the natural ability to retain large amounts of information, so Innova intentionally builds knowledge across the curriculum immersing students in a holistic, unified, and rich learning experience. Students are actively engaged in learning while applying skills they have previously acquired to new, expansive content. Classrooms are filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. Strong habits of heart, mind, and soul are reinforced, as students become more aware of their impact on others and build skills in self-governance and responsibility.

**Science:** In Grade 1, students are always enthusiastic to discover and explore the beautiful world God has created! In November, students will engage in a unit on *Living Things*. Specifically, students will investigate the following questions:

- How do living things reproduce themselves?
- How do living things grow and change?
- How do living things move?
- How do living things respond to other things and show variety?
- How does God provide for plants and animals?

**Latin 1:** Grade 1 students love to practice their Latin vocabulary. Please encourage your child to teach you the words that they have learned. This month, students will learn the following types of words:

- Household items
- Classroom commands
- Manners

**Visual Arts:** In visual arts, students will continue to explore symmetry in art. Students will also create ancient Greek crowns to display on Walk Through History Day. This month, students will participate in activities that include:

- Drawing with symmetry
- Quilting with symmetry

**Dramatic Arts:** In dramatic arts, students will explore the elements of a play. Students will apply their knowledge in creating a short class play. This month, students will participate in workshops that include:

- Exploring the elements of a good story
- Creating a story
- Reflecting on their presentations

**Music:** Grade 1 students continue to grow in musical skills and appreciation. This month, we will focus on:

- Half note and half rest
- Vocal ostinato
- Coda
- Pitched percussion technique
- Christmas repertoire

**Physical Education:** In gym class, students will play a variety of cooperative games. In these games, students will practice:

- Listening to and following directions
- Good sportsmanship
- Working as a team
- Developing physical coordination and endurance

*Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.*

## Upcoming Events

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Picture Day Retake

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day Chapel – all welcome

November 16<sup>th</sup> – Alice in Wonderland Dress Rehearsal – all welcome

November 17<sup>th</sup> – One Act Play Drama Festival – Stouffville

November 18<sup>th</sup> - Pizza Lunch

November 25<sup>th</sup> – Walk Through History Day &

Term 1 Ends – Reports Sent Home

Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study.