

October 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

**Phonics:** Students will continue to develop phonetic awareness by:

- Learning and practicing ending consonant blends including *nd, ft, lk, ct, lp, lt, mp, sp, sk, st, nt, nch*.
- Reading, writing, and spelling the sight words *too, walk, talk, again, out, pull, next, my, and friend*.

**Vocabulary:** Students will continue to learn the meaning of a variety of words. The following topics will be covered:

- Action words
- Reptiles
- Synonyms
- Dictionary skills

**Literature:** Students will explore a unit entitled "A Whirl of Words," in which they study the following stories:

- *Sheep in a Jeep, Poems about Animals, Tongue Twisters, Morris Has a Cold, Amelia Bedelia*

**Bible:** This month, students will continue to study the book of Genesis. They will learn about the following stories:

- The Tower of Babel
- The Call of Abram and God's Covenant with Abraham
- Lot's Choice
- Hagar and Ishmael
- The Three Visitors
- Sodom and Gomorrah
- Isaac's Birth and Ishmael's Response

**History:** Students are excited to continue learning about Ancient China and will then move on to a unit on Ancient Greece. They will explore:

- The grave of the first emperor of China
- The teachings of Confucius
- Bull jumpers of early Crete
- King Minos and the Minotaur
- The mysterious end of the Minoans

**Mathematics:** Students will conclude a unit on addition facts to 10, followed by a unit on subtraction facts to 10 and conclude with exploring shapes and patterns. During this month students will:

- Learn ways to subtract and make subtraction stories
- Solve real world problems
- Make fact families
- Explore plane shapes, solid shapes, and create pictures with shapes

## 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:** Students will continue to explore the five senses. Specifically, they will investigate the following questions:

- How do you hear and what happens when people can't hear?
- How do you smell and what happens when people can't smell?
- How do you taste?
- How do you feel?
- How do you use all your senses?

**Visual Arts:** Students will explore the next element of design, line, studying two famous artists - Wassily Kandinsky and Jacob Lawrence. At the end of the unit, students will apply their skills to create an animal line art piece. Students will explore:

- Patterns in art
- Lines with expression
- Imaginary lines
- Printed lines
- Final culminating task: animal line art

**Dramatic Arts:** Students will explore teamwork and also be exposed to pantomimes in drama. The class will focus on:

- Actor dependency
- Working together as a team
- Problem-solving in drama
- Pantomime story workshop

**Music:** Students will cover some of the foundations of music making such as:

- Rhythmic and melodic ostinatos
- Major and minor tonalities
- Loud (forte) and soft (piano)

**Latin 1:** Songs and chants help students learn Latin in an engaging and enjoyable way. This month students will learn the following types of words in Latin:

- Family members and other people
- Classroom and household items

**Physical Education:** Students will develop physical coordination and practice the following skills:

- Throwing a ball overhand and underhand
- Playing handball and scoops

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

## Upcoming Events

October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> – P.A. Days – No School

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day – No School

October 19<sup>th</sup> - Cross Country Meet (Gr. 3-8) – Simeon Park

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> - Pizza Lunch

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