

September 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

We would like to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning families! Innova is truly blessed and awed by God's grace and goodness as we enter our third year. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with your family in educating your child for the glory of God.

Students will complete three units in **Phonics** during the month of September. In the first unit, students will identify the short vowel sounds /ă/, /ō/, and /ū/, review the letters of the alphabet, identify beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words, and learn the sight words *the, on, is, and and*. During the second unit, students will identify the short vowel sounds /ā/, /ē/, /ī/, /ō/, and /ū/, review the letters of the alphabet, identify beginning and ending sounds in words, and learn the sight words, *where, from, there, and that*. In the third unit, students will identify and use the digraphs *sh, ch* and *th*, review the double letter endings, identify words that rhyme, practice beginning, middle, and ending sounds and learn the sight words *what, their, want, and said*. Each unit is followed by an assessment.

In **Vocabulary**, students will learn words about the weather and words with multiple meanings. They will identify and use pictures and symbols to increase understanding and retention, classify and sort common words into categories, and identify and use words with multiple meanings. Students will conclude the month with a unit on homophones and action words.

In **Literature**, students will read a folktale from West Africa entitled "The Poor Man's Reward." They will build vocabulary through listening, reading, and discussion. Students will make predictions based on text, illustrations, and/or prior knowledge and answer questions requiring literal recall of details. Students will also describe the role of the author and illustrator.

Students will begin to learn and practice lower case letters in **Cursive** using the *Cursive First* program. This program works in conjunction with the *Spell to Write and Read* phoneme and spelling program. This month's cursive work focuses on numerals and the lower case phonemes: *a, c, j, d, g, o, qu, e, l, b, f, h, and k*.

Grade 1 students begin each **Mathematics** period practicing math facts with the Calcu-Ladder math drill program. The first unit will review counting objects from 0 to 10, reading and writing 0 to 10 in numbers and words, and comparing numbers using the words greater than or less than. Students will also practice making number patterns using number cubes. They will then move on to a unit in which they will investigate number bonds. Grade 1 students will learn that a part consists of one of two or more smaller parts that make up a whole. Each unit is followed by an assessment.

This year's **Bible** study begins with a unit entitled "Walking with God," studying the epistle of First John. Students will learn the importance of walking in the Light and sharing God's Light with others. They will be challenged to obey God and live their lives for God. Students will then begin a unit on the Creation of the world. The final unit this month will introduce students to Abraham.

We will begin this year's **Science** study exploring scientific investigations. Students will focus on teamwork and measuring length, temperature, and capacity. They will then begin a unit on investigating the five senses. Throughout this unit, students will learn about sight, sound, smell, taste and texture.



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Grade 1 – The Grammar Stage

The grammar stage builds a solid academic foundation. Children have a natural ability to readily absorb large quantities of information. They find memorization enjoyable, and happily sing and chant phonics and grammar rules, math facts, Latin vocabulary, the names of the continents and oceans, and the important events and dates of history. Grammar school education focuses on the absorption of facts and rules, and lays the foundation for the logic stage.

In **Art**, Grade 1 students will create their own art portfolios to display and share their artwork with classmates. Students will dive into elements of design by looking at both colour and lines in art. First, students will examine the different colours, reviewing both primary and secondary. Students will learn how to blend colours to create balance in their paintings. Next, students will learn about famous artists such as Albrecht Durer and see how they used lines in their art for centuries. Students will examine God's craftsmanship by looking at different animals he created. Using different lines and colours, students will use learned techniques to display the characteristics of a chosen animal. To share their work, students will participate in a class gallery walk.

In **History** class, students will learn about the civilizations of Ancient China. Students will study the geography that created natural barriers between China and the rest of the world, the various dynasties that ruled China, and the well-hidden secret of making beautiful fabric from silk worms.

In **Latin Level 1**, students will learn greeting words, including the Latin words for "hello", "goodbye," and "How are you?" They will then begin a unit entitled "Making Friends." During this unit, students will learn two phrases: "What is your name?" and "My name is." Songs and chants help children learn Latin in an enjoyable and engaging way.

In **Physical Education**, students will begin the school year with a unit on soccer. Students will practice skills in passing, dribbling and shooting a

soccer ball. These skills will focus on student agility, flexibility, endurance, and gross motor skills. Students will be graded based on their participation, respectful attitude, sportsmanship and physical skills demonstrated in class.

Children enjoy exploring stories through **Dramatic Arts**. This month, students will learn about different character traits actors display, focusing on different emotions and how to display emotions effectively on stage. Students will then explore different dialogues in plays to see how character traits can be displayed through dialogue. Students will create a mini monologue to present to the class.

Music is perhaps the most widely used form of artistic expression in the world and it is such a joy to have the chance to teach the tools of musical expression to the Grade 1 class this year! September will be a review month. We will revisit the ideas of pulse, rhythm, and phrasing, as well as address basic vocal technique and mallet skills on the Orff instruments.

Innova Academy has modified some of our curricular sequencing to facilitate split grade classes. This allows for enhanced classroom discussion and student interaction. Please note that although students in different grades study the same topic in some subject areas, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.

We are looking forward to a great month of September, full of learning and fun!

Upcoming Events

September 6th – First Day of Classes
September 8th – Back to School Social – 5:30-7:00pm
September 22nd – Curriculum Night for Parents
September 23rd – Picture Day

Romans 12:2 – Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)



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Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study. Our goal is to equip students to discern truth from folly, to communicate clearly and persuasively, and to actively and influentially serve Christ in their communities.