

December 2016

The Month Ahead At Innova

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

Grade 2
Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

Language Arts: During the month of December, Grade 2 students will continue to develop the necessary skills required to become independent and fluent readers as well as proficient writers. Specific topics include:

Literature

- *The Country Mouse and the City Mouse, The Cap that Mother Made*
- *The Golden Christmas Treasury*

Writing

- Writing friendly letters
- Singular and plural nouns
- Writing thank you notes
- Continued practise toward memorizing 70 phonograms
- Weekly spelling lists

Vocabulary

- Verbs with closely related meanings
- Prefixes and suffixes
- Compound words
- Determine the meaning of words through word parts

Christian Education: Students in Grade 2 are quickly moving through the exciting stories in Genesis. In December, students will continue their study on Joseph. Students will then discuss the birth of the Messiah as we prepare to celebrate Christmas! Topics include:

- Pharaoh's dreams
- Joseph's brothers' visits to Egypt
- Jacob moving his family to Egypt
- The Christmas story

History / Geography: Students are always excited to travel through history and learn about what life was like in another time and place! In December, students will finish a unit on Ancient Greece. Students will investigate the following questions:

- What types of buildings did the Greeks build?
- What did Greek food, clothes and homes look like?
- Who was Alexander the Great?

Mathematics: Students have been using their addition and subtraction skills to successfully represent real-world problems using the Singapore method of drawing bar-models. During the month of December, students will apply what they know to the following new concepts:

- Multiplication and division
- Skip counting and the use of dot paper to show multiplication tables of 2, 5, and 10
- Metric measurement of length

**Please continue daily practise of math facts at home using the XtraMath website.*

Grade 2 – 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 are always excited to explore and investigate the wonderful world God has created! This month, students will study a unit on *Investigating Changes*. Specifically, students will investigate the following questions:

- What changes do living things make when doing activities?
- How does the earth change?
- How does the sun make changes?
- How do the stars seem to change?
- How does the moon change?

Visual Arts: Students, this month, will continue to explore the element of symmetry and will be introduced to texture. Topics include:

- Symmetry in art
- Quilting with symmetry
- Texture collage
- Creating Christmas ornament using texture

Dramatic Arts: This month, students will continue working on creating a class play with a focus on Christmas. Students will:

- Create characters
- Develop a plot around the Christmas story

Music: Students will continue to develop musical skills as they prepare for our Christmas concert. Students will:

- Develop their skill singing in an ensemble
- Learn to follow a conductor
- Grow in their ability to focus and give attention to detail

Latin 1: Grade 1 students love to practise Latin vocabulary. Please encourage your student to teach your family what they are learning this month! Topics include:

- Latin Christmas words
- Words pertaining to manners

Physical Education: In gym class, students will practise the following skills and then apply them in a game of floor hockey:

- Puck handling
- Passing
- Shooting

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

Upcoming Events

- December 1st – Parent Teacher Interviews
- December 2nd – Walk Through History Day
- December 6th – Christmas Performance for Cedarview's Seniors Group
- December 16th - Pizza Lunch
- December 19th – Christmas Performance for Amica Residents
- December 20th – Innova Christmas Concert
- December 22nd – Library and Skating Field Trip
- December 23rd – Classes Dismissed (at lunch) for Christmas break

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