

December 2016

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 4

Mrs. Cheryl Smith

Cheryl first encountered classical education while working with disadvantaged students in the inner city of Rochester, New York. She saw first-hand the benefits of teaching a curriculum rich in content that fostered a “back-to-basics” approach, building a strong foundation as well as enhancing learning in the classroom. Cheryl has completed her teaching certificate and master’s degree. Her teaching experiences have run the gamut of preschool to secondary English. In addition, Cheryl has developed and directed a Fine Arts program for Grades 3 to 6 at her local church, producing twelve musicals. In June 2011, she and her family moved to Newmarket. Cheryl is married to Barry and they have two adult children. She is passionate about teaching and is excited to be returning to the classroom full-time.



Cheryl Smith
Teacher

Grade 3 and
Grade 4

Language Arts: Students will continue to review and practise the phonograms and spelling rules associated with their weekly spelling lists, identify the subject, predicate verb, helping verb, and adverbs in sentences, and explore trickster tales from around the world, comparing and contrasting characteristics of the trickster figure in folk literature. Students will study the following:

Grammar

- Identify parts of speech—nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives
- Identify subject-verb agreement
- Identify prefixes and suffixes

Writing (in telling fables)

- Practise literary device—anthromorphism (animals act like human beings)
- Practise critical and chronological thinking
- Analyze characters
- Use synonyms: nouns and adjectives
- Practise amplification and summary
- Practise proper elocution (the art of speaking skillfully)

Literature

- *Anansi Tales, Brer Rabbit Gets Fox’s Dinner, Brer Rabbit Goes Back to Mr. Man’s Garden, The Lion and the Mouse, Hunter’s Song, Lone Dog, What’s My Name?, Three Young Bulls and a Lion*

Christian Education: Students will continue to explore Genesis 4 -11 in Unit 4 of our Bible curriculum titled *The Fall to Babel: Need for a Savior*. Topics will include the following:

- Cain and Abel
- Adam to Noah
- The Flood and Promise
- Tower of Babel

History/Geography: Students have launched into the study of Africa in preparation for the Walk Through History Day. Following this study, students will return to medieval Japan. Topics include:

- The African kingdoms
- Gold, salt, and Ghana
- Mansa Musa of Mali
- The Songhay empire
- The Samurai warriors
- Maps of the time period

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will learn about data and probability followed by fractions. Topics include:

- Mean, median, mode, and range
- Plotting graphs
- Outcomes
- Probability as a fraction
- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Converting fractions to mixed numbers
- Improper fractions

Grade 4 – 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 investigate forces and electricity. Topics include:

- The three Laws of Motion
- Balanced and unbalanced forces
- Spotlight on Isaac Newton
- Magnetism
- Electrical charges
- Spotlight on Benjamin Franklin

Latin 2: Students will continue to learn new vocabulary, translate simple sentences, learn singular and plural verbs and review Chapters 8-12 in preparation for a Unit 2 assessment. Topics include:

- Things to learn in school
- Celebrations
- Review – chapter 13

French 1: This month, students will continue with the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) as well as prepare for the Christmas concert. Students will:

- Continue rehearsing, memorizing, and acting out the play *Les trois petits cochons* (The Three Little Pigs)
- Learn how to structure simple French sentences with familiar vocabulary
- Continue to practise the play and gestures at home using the online portal or DVD
- Continue to rehearse the song that we will perform for the Christmas concert

Visual Arts: Following a focus on African art and preparation for the Walk Through History Day, students will continue an extensive focus on the element of colour, creating a number of projects including:

- A primary colour quilt design
- A primary three-colour paint project
- A colour-mixing worksheet
- An exploration of warm and cool colours in selected picture book illustrations

Dramatic Arts: This month, students will continue to develop dramatic skills. They will:

- Pantomime mood and feelings
- Experiment with characterization and improvisation

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

- Develop their skills performing as part of an ensemble
- Learn to follow a conductor
- Grow in their ability to focus and give attention to detail

Physical Education: Students will complete the unit on volleyball begun last month and will then begin basketball. Students will learn:

- Skills (dribbling, passing, shooting)
- Rules of the game
- How to play offence and defense

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.