

November 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 practice the phonograms and spelling rules associated with their weekly spelling lists, identify the subject and predicate verb in sentences, and complete the novel study of *The Door in the Wall*. Topics include:

**Grammar**

- Identifying parts of speech—nouns, verbs, adverbs
- Identifying singular and plural subjects
- Identifying helping verbs

**Writing** (in telling fables)

- Literary device—anthromorphism (animals act like human beings)
- Chronological thinking
- Critical thinking
- Character analysis
- Using synonyms: nouns and adjectives
- Amplification and summary

**Literature**

- *The Door in the Wall*, “*To a Honey-Bee*,” *Two Travelers and the Bear*, *The Crow and the Pitcher*, *The Hare and the Partridge*, *The Fox and the Grapes*

**Christian Education:** Students will explore Genesis Chapters 1-11 in Units 3 and 4 of our Bible Curriculum. Topics include:

- Creation – days 1-7
- Adam and Eve - life in Eden
- Man’s Fall into Sin
- Cain and Abel
- Adam to Noah
- The Flood and Promise
- Tower of Babel

**History/Geography:** Students will study Medieval China and Japan. Topics include:

- The great dynasties of China
- Genghis Kahn
- The Mongol conquest of China
- The Great Wall of China
- Marco Polo
- The Forbidden City of Ming
- The Yamato Dynasty of Japan
- The Samurai Warriors
- Maps of the time period

**Mathematics:** This month in math, we are learning how to interpret graphs and tables as well as how to find the following:

- Mean
- Median
- Mode

## 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 investigate forces and electricity. Topics include:

- Magnetism
- Friction
- Gravity
- Motion
- Electricity
- Electrical safety

**Latin 2:** Following a unit assessment on Chapters 1-6, students will continue to learn new vocabulary, review words and phrases from Latin I, and conjugate a number of action verbs. Topics include:

- Helping at home
- Communicating with others
- Ways to travel
- Things to learn in school

**French 1:** We will continue with AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) which is a program that includes gestures related to high-frequency vocabulary, plays for students to perform, and songs in French. This month, students will:

- Start rehearsing, memorizing, and acting out the play *Les Trois Petits Cochons* (The Three Little Pigs)
- Complete comprehension activities related to the play
- Practice the play and gestures at home using the online portal or DVD
- Learn the numbers 1-20 in French as well as the days of the week and the months

**Visual Arts:** Students will begin 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:** Students will continue to focus on telling stories in movement. Topics include:

- Enacting selected fables and legends
- Showing mood and feelings through pantomime
- Developing characterization

**Music:** Grade 4 students will continue to develop their musicality. This month, we will focus on:

- The treble clef staff - directional reading with solfege
- The 3/4-time signature
- Christmas repertoire
- Singing in canon

**Physical Education:** Students had a great time competing in the cross-country meet! Congratulations to all! This month, students will learn the fundamentals of volleyball, including:

- The rules of the game
- Setting, bumping, and serving
- Ball control

*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

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.