

October 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



Literature: Students will read the novel *The Door in the Wall* by Maguerite de Angeli followed by a number of stories highlighting the theme “Lessons Learned” from our Grade 4 anthology. Throughout this study, students will:

- Develop literal and inferential comprehension skills while building vocabulary
- Become more independent and thoughtful readers
- Respond to the text in a variety of formats (i.e. journaling, discussion)

Writing: Students will be introduced to the importance of storytelling, and practice:

- Amplifying (expanding) and summarizing (shortening) a fable
- Thinking chronologically and identifying the main idea
- Thinking critically and comparing and contrasting elements of the story
- identifying sentence construction—subordinate clause/subordinate conjunction

Grammar: Students will learn that a sentence needs two essential parts and learn the *Well Ordered Language* method of analysis. Topics include:

- Principle elements of subject and predicate, Part 1
- Principle elements of subject and verb predicate, Part 2
- Syntax
- Nouns

Spelling: Students will continue to learn and practice the letter pair sounds (phonograms) and spelling rules to aid in successful spelling of the most frequently used or misspelled words in the English language. Lessons include:

- Weekly word list, dictation, and spelling tests
- Using spelling words in well-developed sentences
- Penmanship practice

Bible: The focus this month in Bible is the importance of God’s Word and how to study it. Students will learn that:

- The Bible was written by people who were inspired by God.
- The Bible is organized into testaments and books and features several types of literature.
- Our modern Bible has been separated into chapters and verses so it can be studied more easily.
- Bible concordances help to find topics and verses in the Bible.
- Bible footnotes have been added to help us understand words and ideas better.
- Bible maps help to find places from Bible times, see where things happened, and know that the places in the Bible are real.

History: Having learned about Ancient India, students will focus on Medieval India before moving on to Ancient China. Topics this month include the following:

- A king named Skandagupta
- Monks in caves
- The Moghul Dynasty and Akbar of India
- The pictographs, farming, and calligraphy of Ancient China
- The first emperor, the Great Wall, Confucius, and the dynasties of China

Mathematics: Having finished the factoring, multiples, and prime numbers units, students will expand their knowledge to learn:

- To multiply and divide 2-3 digit numbers
- Analyze and make tables and graphs
- Understand and calculate averages

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: Working from the premise found in Psalm 139:14—"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well," students will launch into an investigation of the circulatory and respiratory systems and how these two systems work together. Students will explore the following questions:

- What does the circulatory system do and how can I care for it?
- What does the respiratory system do and how can I care for it?
- How can I avoid accidents?

Visual Arts: The element of shape will be the focus of art in the month of October. Lines create the outline of shapes. Students will experience this element in a number of ways. They will:

- Draw the outline of shapes using lines.
- Draw patterns inside a positive shape to create a large, bold design.
- Create two images: the positive one that is outlined and the negative one that is the background.
- Create a shape collage by cutting two identical shapes into pieces and put the pieces back together.

Dramatic Arts: In Dramatic Arts this month, students will begin with rhythmic movement and advance to telling stories using movement. Rhythm supplies structure and enjoyment, encouraging spontaneous movement within a disciplined framework. The following myths and legends will be enacted:

- Anansi and His Six Sons (a tale from West Africa)
- The Bat's Choice (a tale from India)
- The Turnip (an old Russian folktale)
- The Dancing Tea Kettle (a folktale from Japan)

Music: Students will take the next steps in their knowledge and learning of part singing and note reading. We will cover:

- Singing in canon
- Making conscious low *So* and low *La*
- Steps and skips on the treble clef staff using solfege

Latin 3: Students will continue to build their Latin vocabulary, find English derivatives, and learn grammar - all of which are put to chant or song to assist with memorization and pronunciation. This month, students will cover the following:

- Present tense verb endings: *ō*, *s*, *t*, *mus*, *tis*, and *nt*
- 1st Declension of the noun *mēnsa*
- Noun gender and number
- *In principio erat Verbum* – In the beginning was the Word
- *Arma virumque cano* – Of arms and the man I sing (Vergil's Aeneid)

French 1: This month, 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:

- Continue to speak exclusively in French with teacher prompts
- Continue to learn new gestures and French vocabulary each class
- Be introduced to the play *Les trois petits cochons* (The Three Little Pigs)
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play

Physical Education: Students have been training hard for the up-coming cross-country meet on October 19th and will continue to develop skills for long distance running. Following the meet, students will begin volleyball. This month, students will:

- Learn to run on different and uneven terrain and pace themselves
- Practice long distance running
- Develop volleyball skills such as bumping, setting, and spiking

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

Upcoming Events

October 6th & 7th – P.A. Days – No School

October 10th – Thanksgiving Day – No School

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

Oct 21st - 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.