

September 2016

The Month Ahead

At Innova

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



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.

In **Cursive Writing** this month, students will learn/review how to form the lowercase letters using the program *Cursive First*. Students who learned to write in cursive last year will focus more on neatness in their penmanship as we work together as a class. In **Phonics**, students will learn/review the single letter and letter pair sounds (phonograms). On September 12th, students will begin their first weekly **Spelling** list and activities culminating with an assessment each Friday.

This year, Grades 4 will be introduced to a new **writing program** called *Writing and Rhetoric*. Students will be provided with forms and models of excellent writing to read, comprehend, discuss, and imitate. The fables used as models this month include: *The Lion and the Mouse*, *Three Young Bulls and a Lion*, and *The Crow and the Pitcher*. In **Grammar**, students will review four kinds of sentences, the eight parts of speech and the principal elements that make up a sentence. In **Literature**, students will read about events in the lives of ordinary and extraordinary characters and how the decisions made by the characters affect their lives in a unit entitled, “Lessons Learned.”

In **Mathematics**, we will begin by introducing the hundred thousands, and then move on to rounding and estimating. Estimating is a critical skill needed to help with self-checking, and quick mental math. As they learn to estimate, it will help introduce students to factors and multiples of whole numbers and then into multiplying and dividing by 4 digit numbers.

Students will be reminded that God had a plan for our salvation before the world was created AND

that He desires a personal relationship with us through faith in Christ Jesus in **Bible** this month. We will begin our study with the book of Ephesians, which focuses on honouring and serving God, living in unity with others and putting on spiritual armour each day.

This month in **Science**, students will learn how different types of questions lead to a variety of scientific investigations. Students will become familiar with scientific equipment and develop skills in reading and recording thermometer measurements as well as analyzing data by making tables and line graphs. Following a unit review and assessment, students will begin a unit study on the Circulatory and Respiratory Systems.

In **Art** this year, students will expand their knowledge about the seven elements of art. Besides learning the definition of each element, students will be provided opportunities that will allow experimentation with each element. Students will be encouraged to explore materials and techniques rather than just complete a simple project. Students will also be introduced to famous artists from ancient times to present day who have used the basic elements of art to express themselves. In the month of September, students will begin with the element of line.

In **History**, students will learn about/review ancient India including the first cities of India, the story of Gilgamesh, life on the Ganges River and the castes of ancient India. Following this review, students will be introduced to the medieval Indian empire and a king named Skandagupta as well as the Moghul dynasty and Akbar of India. Students will read the story called “The Hare” from the

Grade 4
Mrs. Cheryl Smith



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Grade 4 – 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.

Jakarta Tales as well as a story about Akbar entitled, "The Bad Luck Servant."

In **Latin 2**, students will review vocabulary learned in Latin 1, and learn some key phrases such as "What day is it?" Students will learn the days of the week and the months of the year. Besides the written and oral practice in class, students will be assigned listening homework to learn the songs recorded on a CD that will be sent home the first week of school and supplementary worksheets to practice material covered in class. Learning the songs will help reinforce what has been covered in class in a fun way.

Les élèves de Français niveau 1 apprendront du vocabulaire quotidien très simple, comme les numéros de 1 à 10, les couleurs, les salutations, et le vocabulaire de la salle de classe. Ils apprendront aussi quelque vocabulaire lié à la première pièce de théâtre qu'on étudiera cette année, ainsi que les actions qui correspondent à ces mots.

The students of **French 1** will learn very basic French vocabulary for everyday use, such as the numbers from 1-10, colours, greetings, and classroom vocabulary. Students will also learn some of the vocabulary from the first play that they will be studying this year, as well as the actions that correspond to the words.

In **Physical Education**, the Grade 4 class will improve physical fitness with a focus on conditioning and running in preparation for the ACSI Cross Country Meet in October. Students will learn proper running form and will work to build up endurance for the meet. In addition, students will properly warm up for a run and cool down.

This month in **Dramatic Art**, students will focus on imagination. Students will be encouraged to participate in a number of games and activities to foster creativity, self-expression and communication. Journal writing will be part of the dramatic art experience this year.

Grades 3 and 4 are very important years in **Music** class. They are years where children use the basic knowledge they have learned to date and apply it to more complex musical techniques. These are also the years where they begin to read from the musical staff and understand the theory behind the music they perform. In September, the grades three and four class will review the solfège scale, basic rhythmic values, steps and skips, and unison singing. They will also learn a new rhythmic value- sixteenth notes- and major and minor tonalities.

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.