

December 2016

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to the grammar stage of classical education's trivium. Melissa completed her teaching certification and Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and she currently serves as the Grade 7/8 teacher at Innova Academy. When she's not teaching, or involved with church, Melissa enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two boys. You can usually find them at a hockey rink, playing catch, or doing something active together.



Melissa Gazmin  
Teacher

Grade 7 and  
Grade 8

**Language Arts:** This month, students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Charles Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*. They will discover the spiritual depth of Dickens' message and learn what lessons of Christ are woven in among the scenes of Christmas splendor and the soul-searching of Scrooge. As students read through each stave, they will have the chance to interact with the story and reflect on its message. Students will successfully apply skills learned to lessons on the following:

- Character analysis
- Symbolism
- Unfamiliar vocabulary such as *veneration* and *misanthropic*
- Figurative language: *simile, metaphor, idiom, hyperbole, analogy, personification, onomatopoeia, allusion, and pun*
- Conflicts: *person vs person, person vs technology, person vs nature, person vs himself, person vs society*
- Essay writing containing the following elements: *figurative language, a strong thesis statement, quotes taken from the text, a strong conclusion, voice, and word flow*

**Christian Education:** During the month of December, students will conclude their unit on the Protestant Reformation with the following lessons:

- The Thirty Year's War
- The English Civil Wars
- George Fox and the Quakers
- Louis XIV: The Sun King
- Jakob Amman: Father of the Amish

**History/Geography:** Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how both America and Canada became the great nations they are today by focusing on the events that took place during the years of 1765 – 1791. Topics will include:

American History – The American Revolution

- Part 1: *Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, First Continental Congress, Patrick Henry's Fiery Speech, Paul Revere's Ride, Battles of Lexington and Concord, Second Continental Congress, Colonial Defeat at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Thomas Paine's Common Sense, and the Declaration of Independence*
- Part 2: *Washington Crosses the Delaware, The Flag Unfolds, Victory at Saratoga, The Winter at Valley Forge, Treaty of Alliance with France, The Betrayal of Benedict Arnold, Articles of Confederation, Cornwallis Surrenders at Yorktown, Treaty of Paris, and the Constitution of the United States of America*

Canadian History – The Influence of the Loyalists on British North America

- Who Were the Loyalists?
- The Loyalist Migrations to British North America
- The Lake Ontario and Lake Erie Regions
- How the Loyalists Changed the Face of Quebec

**Logic:** Students will continue to explore logical fallacies. This month's lessons will include:

- Assumptions
- Circular Reasoning
- Equivocation
- Loaded Question

## Grade 8 – The Logic Stage

The strong knowledge base established in the grammar school provides a solid foundation as students enter the logic school. As perspective widens, students start to make meaningful connections across the curriculum. Students show more independence in their learning and establish systems in self-regulation and personal study skills. Shaping students' habits of heart, mind, and soul is a key focus as students deepen their understanding of God's purpose for his creation and their role in his redemptive plan. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to critically analyze ideas and speak to issues in light of God's purposes.

**Mathematics:** Students will complete their study of inequalities in algebra, and then learn about direct and indirect proportions in the following areas:

- Definition
- Graphic representation
- Solving problems

**Science:** This month, students will understand the classification system of life, which will include the following:

- Defining and the history of classification
- Understanding the evolutionary vs creationist view of classification
- The different kingdoms

**Latin 4:** This month, students will complete Chapter 18 in *Latin for Children, Primer A*, which is a review of the concepts covered in Chapters 14 to 17. Students will:

- Review imperfect tense verb conjugation, sentence patterns, parsing, and all vocabulary from Chapters 14 to 17
- Learn and work with the 5 new nouns and 5 new verbs from Chapter 19
- Practise conjugating verbs in the future tense

**French 3:** This month, we will continue with the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) as well as prepare for the Christmas concert. Students will:

- Memorize John 3:16 in French
- Continue rehearsing, memorizing, and acting out the play *Un jour bizarre* ("A Strange Day")
- Review how to answer "this or that" and open-ended questions in French using familiar vocabulary
- Continue to practise the play and gestures at home using the online portal or DVD

**Visual Arts:** In December, students will explore the Italian Renaissance through interior perspective drawing. Topics include:

- Drawing techniques
- History of the Italian Renaissance from interior perspectives
- Interior Perspective drawing

**Dramatic Arts:** This month, students will continue to practise the *Alice and Wonderland* play for the upcoming performances in December. Students will focus on:

- Character development
- Voice and body expression

**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 playing 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 1<sup>st</sup> – Parent Teacher Interviews
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Walk Through History Day
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Performance for Cedarview's Seniors Group
- December 16<sup>th</sup> - Pizza Lunch
- December 19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Performance for Amica Residents
- December 20<sup>th</sup> – Innova Christmas Concert
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Library and Skating Field Trip
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> – 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.