

November 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 Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*. Students will also understand Twain's work as a historical record and draw upon their knowledge of 16th century England. This novel ties in well with our Christian education unit on the Protestant Reformation. During the month of November, students will also continue working in their Writing & Rhetoric book with lessons focusing on:

Writing

- Outlining
- Annotation
- Hyperbole, contraries, and antitheses
- Essay writing: introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion
- Creating sentence variety with conditional statements
- Building copiousness with euphemism and dysphemism (rhetorical devices)
- Organizing ideas around a thesis
- Using textual evidence to support a thesis
- Comparing and contrasting biographical figures
- Using a rubric to guide critiquing and revision
- Proofreading and revision

Grammar

- Sentence diagramming with specific focus on: *direct & indirect objects, subject compliments, and compound subjects, predicates, & objects*
- Sentences, fragments, and run-ons

Christian Education: During the month of November, we will continue our study of the Protestant Reformation with the following lessons:

- Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
- The Anabaptist movement and Menno Simon
- Henry VIII and his many wives
- John Calvin
- Ignatius Loyola, Francis Xavier, and the Jesuits
- William Tyndale: Father of the English Bible
- Mary Tudor
- Elizabeth I

History/Geography: Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how both America and Canada became the great nations they are today. Our focus this month will be the 17th and early 18th centuries. Topics will include:

American History (1607-1732)

- The Founding of Jamestown
- The Pilgrims land at New Plymouth
- Squanto
- John Winthrop and the Puritans
- The Atlantic Slave Trade
- The Thirteen Colonies of North America

Canadian History – A French Colony in a British Empire

- The peoples of Quebec
- Dealing with different groups
- How the British Colonies affected Quebec

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

- Tu quoque
- Faulty appeal to authority

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.

- Appeal to the people
- Straw man

Mathematics: In Mathematics this month, students will:

- Solve algebraic expressions
- Solve real world problems with algebra
- Solve algebraic inequalities

Science: In science, we will continue to study the seven criteria for life, and then transition into the classification of life in the following areas:

- Prokaryotic vs eukaryotic
- The 5 kingdoms

Latin 4: Students will study Chapters 17 (imperfect tense, continued) and 19 (future tense) in *Latin for Children, Primer A*. Students will:

- Learn the chapter chants on imperfect tense and future tense verb endings
- Learn and work with the fifteen new nouns and five new verbs from Chapters 17 and 19
- Explore the English derivatives originating from the Chapters 17 and 19 Latin vocabulary
- Continue to practice parsing Latin verbs (number, person, tense) and nouns (number, gender, case)

French 3: 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:

- Memorize John 3:16 in French
- Begin memorizing and acting out the play *Un Jour Bizarre* ("A Strange Day")
- Complete comprehension activities related to the play and review how to answer simple questions in French
- Practice the play and gestures at home using the online portal or DVD

Visual Arts: This month in art, students will continue creating their still life portraits. Students will also explore the Italian Renaissance and the rebirth by creating self-portraits. Activities will include:

- Drawing techniques
- The Italian rebirth portraits
- Walk Through History activity

Dramatic Arts: This month, students in drama will focus on character development while rehearsing for the *Alice in Wonderland* play and Remembrance Day performance. Drama workshops include:

- Discover my character
- Drama reflection

Music: Grade 8 students will continue to develop their musical knowledge and talent. This month, they will practice:

- Sight-singing with solfege
- Singing in canon and simple 2-part
- Reading the treble clef staff: upper ledger lines
- Playing the ukulele
- Christmas repertoire

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 3rd – Picture Day Retake

November 11th – Remembrance Day Chapel – all welcome

November 16th – Alice in Wonderland Dress Rehearsal – all welcome

November 17th – One Act Play Drama Festival – Stouffville

November 18th - Pizza Lunch

November 25th – 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.