

October 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

**Writing and Rhetoric:** Students will continue their study of encomium and vituperation and learn how each can be used in a persuasive essay. During the month of October, students will:

- Read an autobiography about the life of Frederick Douglass and practice:
  - Annotation, summarizing, critical thinking, picture analysis, creating hyperbole and similes, writing a thesis statement, and finding direct quotes to support a main idea.
- Be guided step-by-step through a sample encomium essay
- Write an encomium essay in praise of Susan B. Anthony while practicing the following:
  - Creating sentence variety with simple and compound sentences
  - Using rhetorical devices hyperbole, simile, and metaphor
  - Writing the introduction, body, and conclusion of an essay
  - Organizing ideas around a thesis and using textual evidence for support
  - Comparing and contrasting biographical figures
  - Proofreading and revision

**Christian Education** Students will continue reading *Hinds' Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard. We will continue following Much-Afraid on her spiritual journey, and experience her transformation as we consider our own journeys and the transformation which can take place in our own lives when we give them entirely over to the Shepherd.

Once we have finished our novel study we will begin a study of the Protestant Reformation. This can be a difficult piece of history to understand and it is my hope the students will realize why studying and knowing the Word of God for themselves is imperative. During the month of October, we will focus on the following:

- Martin Luther and his ninety-five theses
- Indulgences
- The Debate at Leipzig
- The Diet of Worms
- Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
- The Anabaptist movement and Menno Simon

**History:** Students will begin the month of October with their first unit on Canadian history. Focus will be placed on New France and, more specifically, the newcomers to the region (1534-1700). The following will be included in our unit study:

- Explorers & military people
- Religious figures
- Fur traders
- Farmers
- Interactions with the First Nations Peoples

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

- Ad Hominem Attack
- Genetic Fallacy
- Tu Quoque
- Faulty Appeal to Authority

**Mathematics:** This month, students will complete a unit on algebra, focusing on the following:

- Adding and subtracting algebraic expressions
- Factoring and Expanding algebraic expressions
- Solving real world algebraic problems

## 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.

**Science:** Science has a long history of discoveries, augmentation, and experimentation. Last month, students investigated the birth of science and will now examine the question, "What is Life." We will explore the following:

- Criteria of life
- DNA
- Cells

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will explore colour schemes while learning painting techniques and create a still life painting representative of the Renaissance period. Activities include:

- Examining and discussing still life in Renaissance art
- Exploring painting technique including brushstrokes and blending
- Creating still life painting

**Dramatic Arts:** Students will continue to work with character by performing in role-play and working with body movement activities on the stage. Activities include:

- Role playing a character
- Role playing an interview
- Body movement workshop: show me the move!

**Music:** Students will continue developing their skill on the ukulele and practice the following:

- Sight-singing with solfege
- Directional reading
- Singing in canon and two parts (with ostinato)
- Identifying Intervals on the treble clef staff
- Labeling treble clef notes CDEFGABC'
- New rhythm patterns

**Latin 4:** This month, students will:

- Learn chants on sentence patterns and imperfect tense verb endings
- Continue to learn and work with the 10 new nouns from Chapter 15
- Learn and work with the 5 new verbs and 5 new nouns from Chapter 16
- Translate simple Latin sentences to English
- Explore English derivatives originating from Latin

**French 3:** In French this month, students 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
- Become accustomed to speaking exclusively in French, with fewer teacher prompts
- Continue to practice the start-of-class rap
- Continue to learn new gestures and French vocabulary each class
- Begin practicing and memorizing the play *Un jour bizarre* ("A Strange Day")
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play

**Physical Education:** Students have been training hard for the up-coming cross-country meet on October 19<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> – P.A. Days – No School

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day – No School

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

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> - 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.