

September 2016

The Month Ahead

At Innova

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

Grade 7 and
Grade 8



Grade 8
Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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 **Writing and Rhetoric**, students will be introduced to the concepts of encomium and vituperation and how they can be used in a persuasive essay. We will then look at the differences between a biography and an autobiography and ask the question, "Which can be more trusted?" Students will begin to understand that writers use ethos to persuade their audience that they are a trusted authority on the subject. After all, we tend to be more likely to agree with someone if we feel we can trust them. Next, students will be introduced to the concept of hyperbole and be able to explain why it is an effective rhetorical device. We will end the month learning the importance of a good thesis statement that not only states a fact, but shares an opinion with the reader in the hopes of influencing them.

In **Logic**, students will be introduced to *The Fallacy Detective* by Nathaniel and Hans Bluedorn. Throughout the year we will explore thirty-eight lessons on how to recognize logical fallacies, or bad reasoning, put a higher value on good reasoning, and learn how to avoid fallacies in our own reasoning. This month, students will come to appreciate that thinking is hard work and they must have discipline in exercising their minds. We will also discuss the importance of humbling ourselves and listening to others and how we can benefit from looking at opposing viewpoints.

In **Mathematics** this month, students will extend their knowledge of numbers (whole numbers, integers, fractions, and decimals) to irrational numbers. They will identify the numbers that make up the set of rational numbers and those that make up the set of real numbers, locating numbers from both sets on the number line. Topics include: density property for rational and real numbers, writing fractions as decimals, approximating rational numbers with decimal values, square roots, and significant digits.

In **Christian Education** we will begin the year studying Hannah Hurnard's, *Hinds' Feet on High Places*. This is a beautiful allegory dramatizing the yearning of God's children to grow closer to Him with an understanding that

an intimate relationship with God requires that we seek Him daily and focus our lives around His direction and will. Students will follow the main character, Much-Afraid, on a spiritual journey that takes her from the Valley of Humiliation to the High Places, transforming her union with the loving Shepherd along the way. "*The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me walk upon my high places.*" Habakkuk 3:19

In **Science**, we will begin by discussing how God and science not only coexist but how science is designed by God. There will be many opportunities for experimentation, therefore, in preparation we will review basic safety precautions and procedures. Students will then explore science throughout history, discussing major contributors and conducting experiments that demonstrate their discoveries.

This year, students will create their own **Art** portfolios to display and share their artwork with classmates. In September, students will explore the first two elements of design: colour and line. First, students will learn about complimentary colours and analogous colour ranges. Through understanding the colour wheel, students will create their own natural pallet of analogous colours using blending techniques. Next, through examining different art techniques using line, students will learn about the history behind lines in art and different patterning techniques using lines. Students will create their own Zentangle art by examining the natural environment and using God's handiwork as inspiration for their art.

In **History** this month, students will begin with a unit on early European explorers. They will follow Portuguese explorers, Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama, on their terrifying journeys around the Cape of Good Hope, discuss the successes and failures of Christopher Columbus' four voyages, determine what made the conquistadors, Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro, both brave and successful as well as cruel and greedy, and sail with Ferdinand Magellan as he and his crew are the first to circumnavigate the world. Students will then



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Grade 8 – The Logic Stage

By fifth grade, children begin to think more analytically, to ask “why,” and make connections. During the logic stage, students explore cause and effect relationships and the way facts fit together into a logical framework. In the seventh grade students begin to study both formal and informal logic. Teachers encourage debate, and students are called upon to explain their reasoning. For instance, in history students go beyond learning what happened during the War of 1812 to understanding why the War of 1812 occurred, and in math students progress from concrete arithmetic to more abstract algebraic concepts.

look at the tragic history, in regards to the Natives, that unfolded due to the exploration of North America by explorers such as Juan Ponce de Leon, Jacques Cartier, Hernando de Soto, and Francisco de Coronado. This will lead students to the founding of Jamestown and the English belief that they had the right to claim the New World and rule it. Finally, our unit on early exploration will conclude with a look at the “Father of New France,” Samuel de Champlain, and the start of the first permanent European settlement in Canada and the successful journeys and tragic ending of the English explorer Henry Hudson.

This month, the students of **Latin 4** will review vocabulary (verbs and nouns) and grammar concepts they have learned so far, including present tense verb conjugation, 1st and 2nd declension nouns, 2nd declension neuter nouns, adjective endings, and 1st and 2nd declension adjectives. Students will also complete a diagnostic assessment to determine how much of the material they have mastered before moving forward with new concepts.

Les élèves de Français niveau 3 vont réviser le vocabulaire qu'ils ont appris dans les années passées ainsi que les actions qui correspondent aux mots. Ils commenceront à apprendre les nouveaux mots et actions liés à la première pièce de théâtre qu'on étudiera cette année, et les élèves vont aussi réviser les concepts grammaticaux comme les questions totales et les questions partielles (qui, qu'est-ce que, quand, où, pourquoi, comment) en français. Pour terminer, les élèves passeront le mois de septembre en mémorisant Romains 12:2 en français.

The students of **French 3** will review vocabulary learned in past years as well as the actions that correspond to the words. They will start to learn words and actions related to the first play that they will be studying this year, and students will also review grammatical concepts like how to answer yes/no questions and open-ended questions (who, what, when, where, why, how) in French. Finally, students will spend the month of September memorizing Romains 12:2 in French.

In **Physical Education**, students' physical fitness is briefly assessed before individual circuits are introduced. Students will improve physical fitness with a focus on conditioning and running in preparation for the ACSI Cross Country Meet in October. They will learn proper running form, breathing, and pacing as they work to build up endurance for the meet. In addition, students will properly warm up and cool down.

This month in **Dramatic Arts**, students will learn about character analysis in role-play. Through dialogue, expression and character interaction, students will examine and interpret characters in plays. Students will participate in having identities where classmates will have the chance to act and reflect on their performance.

This year, we are introducing a new instrument to the grades five to eight **Music** class! Students will learn how to play the ukulele! Why ukulele? This versatile instrument has a mellow tone, it can play both melody and harmony, it is easy to learn, you can sing and play at the same time, and kids love it! We will use the ukulele to teach music literacy and ensemble playing as well as ear training. In addition to ukulele, the grades five to eight class will continue to develop choral skills. In September, we will review the solfege scale, the most common rhythmic patterns, the notes DEFGABC' on the treble clef staff, steps and skips, major and minor tonalities, and singing in canon.

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.