

January 2017

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1  
Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grades 1/2 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco  
Teacher

Grade 1 and  
Grade 2

**Language Arts:** Students will continue to build phonetic awareness, expand their vocabulary, study classic stories and begin a novel study. At the end of the month, Grade 1 students will begin formal spelling and writing. Detailed instructions for spelling will be sent home at the end of the month. Language arts topics include:

#### Phonics

- Sounds: *-ar, -or* and *z*
- Word endings: *silent e*
- Contractions
- Sight words: *would, could, should, none, more, held*

#### Vocabulary

- Related verbs
- Related adjectives
- Homographs
- Abbreviations and calendar words

#### Literature

- *The Tortoise and the Hare, Over In The Meadow, The Hummingbird and The Butterfly, The Lion and The Mouse*
- Novel Study: *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* by Alice Dalgliesh

**Christian Education:** Students in Grade 1 are quickly moving through the exciting stories in Genesis. We will continue through the Old Testament, with stories of Moses and Israel being the theme for January. Students will explore:

- How God saves and calls Moses
- The plagues and Passover
- Crossing of the Red Sea
- The Ten Commandments
- Building the Tabernacle

**History / Geography:** Students are excited to travel back through history and learn what life was like in another time and place! In January, students will begin a study on Rome. Students will explore:

- Food
- Dress
- Architecture
- Geography
- Daily life

**Mathematics:** Grade 1 students will finish a unit titled "Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20". Students will move on to a chapter on length and then a chapter on weight. Throughout the month, students will:

- Apply addition and subtraction skills to real world problems
- Compare two or more things
- Use a start line

## Grade 1 – The Grammar Stage

Innova Academy's grammar school curriculum builds a solid academic foundation, emphasizing mastery of facts and fundamental skills. Grammar stage students have the natural ability to retain large amounts of information, so Innova intentionally builds knowledge across the curriculum immersing students in a holistic, unified, and rich learning experience. Students are actively engaged in learning while applying skills they have previously acquired to new, expansive content. Classrooms are filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. Strong habits of heart, mind, and soul are reinforced, as students become more aware of their impact on others and build skills in self-governance and responsibility.

- Measure and weigh things
  - Find length and weight in units
- \* *Please continue to practise math facts at home.*

**Science:** Students are excited to explore and investigate the wonderful world God has created! In January, Grade 1 students will continue their study of *Investigating Changes* in science class. Specifically, students will investigate the following questions:

- How do the stars seem to change?
- How does the moon change?
- How do weather patterns change?
- How does the wind change?
- How do temperature and precipitation change?

**Latin 1:** Grade 1 students love to practise Latin vocabulary. Please encourage your student to teach your family what they are learning this month! Topics include:

- Words pertaining to manners
- Animals
- Household pets

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will learn about using texture in their artwork and Ancient Roman art. Projects include:

- Ancient Roman coin sculpting
- Ancient Roman mosaics

**Dramatic Arts:** In drama, students will explore the art of folklore and storytelling.

Topics include:

- Native folklore
- West African folklore

**Music:** In January, the grade one class will:

- Expand their knowledge of the solfege scale, particularly the pentatonic scale.
- Begin broken borduns on the Orff instruments
- Continue to work on vocal technique.

**Physical Education:** In gym class, students will practise the following skills and then apply them in a game of floor hockey:

- Puck handling
- Passing
- Shooting

*Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.*

## Upcoming Events

January 9<sup>th</sup> – Classes Resume

January 12<sup>th</sup> – InSchoolwear Uniform Sale at Innova – 12:30-3:30 p.m.

January 19<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Lunch

January 20<sup>th</sup> – Snow Valley Ski Trip (Gr. 3-8) & Tobogganing (JK-2)

Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study.