

February 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 4

Mrs. Cheryl Smith

Cheryl first encountered classical education while working with disadvantaged students in the inner city of Rochester, New York. She saw first-hand the benefits of teaching a curriculum rich in content that fostered a “back-to-basics” approach, building a strong foundation as well as enhancing learning in the classroom. Cheryl has completed her teaching certificate and master’s degree. Her teaching experiences have run the gamut of preschool to secondary English. In addition, Cheryl has developed and directed a Fine Arts program for Grades 3 to 6 at her local church, producing twelve musicals. In June 2011, she and her family moved to Newmarket. Cheryl is married to Barry and they have two adult children. She is passionate about teaching and is excited to be returning to the classroom full-time.



Cheryl Smith
Teacher

Grade 3 and
Grade 4



Language Arts: Students will continue to develop vocabulary, practise spelling and grammar rules in writing, learn and review reading strategies to increase comprehension and improve reading fluency, and develop the art of speaking skillfully—known as elocution-- in preparation for the ACSI Public Speaking Festival in early March. This month’s topics include:

Grammar

- Identifying parts of speech—nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, and direct objects
- Identifying transitive verbs, linking verbs, intransitive verbs and helping verbs

Writing (in telling fables)

- Chronological thinking
- Critical thinking
- Using context for word recognition
- Dictionary skills
- Character analysis
- Using synonyms: nouns and adjectives
- Amplification
- Imaginative storytelling
- Memorization

Literature

- *Sir Alexander Fleming: The Accident That Changed the World; A The Story of Augustus, Who Would Not Have Any Soup; The Mice in Council; The Dog and Her Reflection, The Fisherman and His Wife, A Pin Has a Head, A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

Christian Education: Students will complete a unit on the life of Abraham before moving on to study the lives of Isaac and Jacob. Students will learn that:

- God used the events in the lives of Isaac and Jacob to advance His plan.
- God’s ways are not the same as our ways.
- God remained faithful to His promises even when His people broke trust with Him.

History/Geography: Students will study the American kingdoms of the Mayans and the Incas as well as the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal. Topics covered include:

- The Mayans of Central America
- The Marvelous city of Tenochtitlan
- The Incas of Peru
- Ferdinand and Isabella unite Spain
- Henry the Navigator, Prince of Portugal
- Maps of the time period

Mathematics: Students will continue to focus on and develop core fraction skills by examining real life situation problems that use fractions in the following ways:

- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Converting into mixed and improper fractions

Science: This month, students will learn about heat and temperature. The following questions will be considered:

- What is temperature?
- What is heat?

Grade 4 – 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.

- How is heat produced?
- What is conduction?
- What is convection?
- What is radiation?

Latin 2: Students have learned action verbs as well as conjugating the *present tense* forms of **sum**, a Latin *being* verb. In the remaining chapters of this unit, students will focus on:

- adverbs
- the *past tense* forms of *sum*
- a unit review and assessment

French 1: In February, the Level 1 French class will continue with the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology), with students practising the play and gestures at home using the online portal or DVD. Students will:

- Continue to rehearse, memorize, and act out the play *Les trois petits cochons*
- Learn how to answer "this or that" questions in French using familiar vocabulary
- Learn the numbers 1-50 as well as their spelling words in French
- Continue to practise saying and writing dates in French

Visual Arts: Students will complete working with colour before moving on to the element of value. Topics include:

- Colour: warm and cool, contrasting and complimentary
- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
- *Arrow to the Sun* by Gerald McDermott
- Value project: black, white & gray painting

Dramatic Arts: Students will continue to explore puppetry. Activities include:

- Making a sock puppet
- Evaluating stories for puppet plays
- Experimenting with puppet characterization

Music: This month, students will continue to learn the basics of recorder and score reading. They will also explore more complex Orff arrangements and choral music as they further develop their ensemble skills. Specific elements that will be addressed are:

- Notes B, A, G, C, D, and F# on the treble clef staff and on the recorder
- Tone quality in singing
- Sight-singing from a musical score
- Percussion patterns on the Orff instruments

Physical Education: In February, students will finish playing basketball focusing on the following:

- Skills (dribbling, passing, shooting)
- Team strategy

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

Upcoming Events

February 2nd and 10th – Pizza Lunch

February 20th – Family Day – no school

February 23rd – In-School Speech Meet

February 28th – ACSI Girls Basketball Tournament – Whitfield Christian School

March 2nd - ACSI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga Christian Academy

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