

January 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 review and practise the phonograms and spelling rules associated with their weekly spelling lists, be introduced to oxymorons (two words used together that have opposite meanings), learn to identify alliterations, and continue learning prefixes and suffixes. Students will also begin writing a thematic paragraph with the weekly spelling lists.

#### Grammar

- Identifying parts of speech—nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, and direct objects
- Identifying singular and plural subjects along with subject verb agreement
- Identifying transitive verbs, linking verbs, intransitive verbs and helping verbs

#### Writing

- Practise a literary device—anthromorphism (animals act like human beings)
- Chronological thinking
- Critical thinking
- Using context for word recognition
- Dictionary skills
- Character analysis
- Using synonyms: nouns and adjectives
- Amplification and summary
- Memorization

#### Literature

- *“Lone Dog,” “What’s My Name?,” “Three Young Bulls and a Lion,” “A Pin Has a Head,” “The Ass and His Driver,” “The Story of Augustus, Who Would Not Have Any Soup,” “Louis Pasteur: Battle with Death,” “Elizabeth Blackwell: A Pioneering Physician,” and “Sir Alexander Fleming: The Accident that Changed the World.”*

**Christian Education:** Students will study the life of Abraham and God’s special relationship with him. Topics covered include the following:

- God’s call and promise to Abram
- Abram and Sarai in Egypt
- Lot’s choice
- Hagar and Ishmael
- God’s covenant with Abraham
- Sodom and Gomorrah
- Isaac’s birth
- Abraham’s testing

**History/Geography:** Students will return to study medieval Japan followed by a brief study of the first peoples of Australia and the Maori people. After a review and unit assessment of medieval Japan and Australia, students will begin a study of the first Russians before moving on to study the American Kingdoms of the Mayans and the Incas. Topics include:

- The English code of chivalry
- The Samurai: Japanese knights
- The first people of Australia
- The long journey of the Maori
- The Rus come to Constantinople
- Ivan the Great and Ivan the Terrible
- Maps of the time period

**Mathematics:** In January, students will be working with fractions and mixed numbers. Students will:

- Add and subtract fractions
- Convert fractions into mixed numbers and improper fractions

## 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.

**Science:** All objects give off some heat. The amount of heat that an object gives off depends on how large the object is and how fast its molecules vibrate. In this unit on heat and temperature, students will explore the following topics:

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

**Latin 2:** Students will continue to learn new vocabulary in this new unit, as well as review vocabulary from Latin 1. Along with learning some new action verbs, students will be introduced to conjugating an irregular "being verb" and several adverbs. Chapter titles include:

- Royalty
- Military Matters
- Everyday Actions
- Adverbs: How We Do Things

**French 1:** In January, we 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* (The Three Little Pigs)
- Learn how to answer "this or that" questions in French using familiar vocabulary
- Learn the months of the year, days of the week, seasons, and the numbers 1-31 in French
- Practise saying and writing dates in French

**Visual Arts:** Students will continue to explore the element of colour. Topics include:

- Secondary colour sheet-The Colour Wheel
- A project on mixing colours and a rainbow of colours mosaic
- Warm and cool colours – a look at two book illustrators
- Contrasting and complimentary colours

**Dramatic Arts:** Students will explore the art of puppetry. Activities include:

- Making a sock puppet
- Evaluating stories for puppet plays

**Music:** In the new year, the Grade 4 class will begin to play the recorder. They will learn how to:

- Read notes and rhythms on the treble clef staff
- Control their breath
- Achieve a good tone on their instrument
- Read and perform syncopated rhythms
- Sing in solfege and canon

**Physical Education:** In January, students will continue to learn and develop basketball skills. Topics include:

- Dribbling, passing, shooting
- Rules of the game
- Offensive and defensive play

*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.