

January 2017

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 7

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

**Language Arts:** This month in Writing & Rhetoric, students will write either an encomium or a vituperative essay about the Confederate "torpedo" and about Carry A. Nation. In this unit, students will practise:

- Weighing the strengths and weaknesses of an invention and making a moral judgment about that invention
- Weighing the strengths and weaknesses of a historical figure and making a judgment about that historical figure
- Critical thinking
- Using prepositional phrases to add sentence variety
- Employing parallelism to grab audience attention
- Organizing ideas around a thesis
- Using textual evidence to support a thesis
- Comparing and contrasting weapons of war
- Comparing and contrasting images and biographical figures
- Impromptu speaking using rhetorical devices
- Formal discussion
- Proofreading and revision

**Christian Education:** During the month of January, students will begin a unit on apologetics. As an introduction to this unit, we will read *Cold-Case Christianity For Kids* by J. Warner Wallace and Sue Wallace. It is my prayer that studying apologetics will inspire the students to seek truth and to stand firm in their beliefs as Christians in today's world. While reading this book, students will use detective skills to uncover the truth about Christianity. Some of these skills include:

- Learning how to infer
- Thinking circumstantially
- Respecting the chain of custody
- Separating artifacts from evidence
- Resisting conspiracy theories

**History/Geography:** The American Revolution has ended and the Loyalists have settled in British North America. As students continue to learn about the wars of independence, we travel to France in 1789, so we can better understand our own Canadian history. This month, students will explore and understand the following unforgettable stories:

- The French Revolution (1789-1799): *The birth of the National Assembly, Marie Antoinette, Maximilien Robespierre's Reign of Terror*
- The Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte (1799): *From First Consul to Emperor, the Battle of Trafalgar*
- The War of 1812 (1812-1814): *The assault on Canada, Treaty of Ghent, the Battle of New Orleans, key figures in Upper Canada – Sir Isaac Brock, Tecumseh, Laura Secord, and Lieutenant-Colonel John By*
- The Fall of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo (June 18, 1815): *Russia, Battle of the Nations, Congress of Vienna*

**Logic:** Students will continue to explore logical fallacies and the value of being aware of assumptions. This month's lessons will include:

- Equivocation
- Loaded Question
- Slippery Slope

**Mathematics:** This month, students will continue with direct and inverse proportions and then begin to

## Grade 7 – 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.

study angles and straight line properties. Topics include:

- Solving problems
- Examining inverse proportions
- Complementary, adjacent, and supplementary angles
- Angles that share a vertex
- Interior and exterior angles

**Science:** This month, students will finish the classification of life, then proceed into preparation for the science fair. This will include the following:

- Examining the scientific method
- Learning the scientific process
- Applying the process in experiments
- Understanding the rules and expectations of the science fair

**Latin 4:** In January, students will complete Chapters 19 (future tense) and 20 (types of verbs and nouns) in *Latin for Children, Primer A*. Students will:

- Continue to review noun declension and parsing
- Learn and work with the 15 new nouns and 5 new verbs from Chapters 19-20
- Practise conjugating verbs in the future tense
- Explore the different noun cases/jobs, as well as the different kinds of verbs
- Complete a quiz for each chapter

**French 3:** 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:

- Memorize Proverbs 3:5 in French
- Continue rehearsing, memorizing, and acting out the play *Un jour bizarre* ("A Strange Day")
- Review how to answer open-ended questions in French using familiar vocabulary
- Learn when and how to use verbs in the infinitive form rather than a conjugated form

**Visual Arts:** In visual arts, students will continue to work on their self-portraits. Students will also begin perspective art. Topics include:

- Completion of self portraits
- Perspective drawing techniques.
- The Italian Renaissance: interior perspective drawing

**Music:** This month, the focus in music class will be developing sight-sing skills. Students will:

- Learn to read and sing notes from a score
- Read and correctly clap more complex rhythmic patterns
- Continue choral training in canons and two-part harmony
- Continue ukulele lessons

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

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

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.