

March 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 4

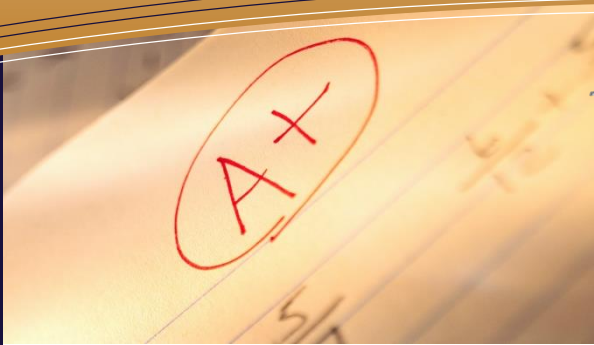
Mrs. Cheryl Smith

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, as well as write a thematic paragraph with the weekly spelling words. After the speech meet, students will begin a novel study.

Grammar

- Identify parts of speech—nouns, predicate and helping verbs, adverbs, adjectives and direct objects
- Use proper punctuation, capitalization and sentence variations in written assignments
- Develop working vocabulary with synonyms, prefixes and suffixes

Writing (in telling fables) Students will continue to complete writing exercises to practise the following skills:

- Chronological thinking
- Critical thinking
- Comparison and contrast
- Identify the main idea
- Character analysis
- Sentence construction—subordinate clause/subordinate conjunction
- Using synonyms—nouns and adjectives
- Amplification
- Imaginative storytelling

Literature

- *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park, *The Crow and the Pitcher*, *A Pin Has a Head*, *The Dog and Her Reflection*, *The Fisherman and His Wife*

Christian Education: Students will continue to study the lives of Isaac and Jacob. Isaac was a humble man, who tried to walk in his father’s footsteps. Jacob, on the other hand, was a schemer and a trickster. Yet, God used both men to eventually fulfill his covenant promises. Following, is a list of some topics that will be the focus of study:

- Isaac and Rebekah
- Jacob and Esau: the birthright
- Jacob and Esau: the blessing
- Jacob marries Leah and Rachel
- Jacob’s sons
- God wrestles with Jacob

History/Geography: Students will continue to study the exploration and colonization of the New World.

Learning and discussion will revolve around the following:

- Sir Walter Raleigh
- The Lost Colony
- The New-Found Land
- John Cabot
- Jacques Cartier

Mathematics: This month, students will be introduced to decimals and will learn the following:

- The tenths and the hundredths place value
- Rounding
- Changing fractions to decimals

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: Following a unit assessment on heat and temperature, students will begin a new unit on investigating soil. These questions will be explored:

- How does soil form?
- What are different types of soil like?
- What are soil layers like?
- How do we depend on soil?
- How can we care for soil?

Latin 2: Students will learn vocabulary associated with a number of occupations and some common prepositions. The future tense of the verb “of being” will also be introduced.

French 1: In March, 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 open-ended questions in French using familiar vocabulary
- Work with a new set of spelling words in French
- Learn how to describe the weather in French

Visual Arts: Following an activity of creating a tertiary colour wheel, students will learn about the element of value. Activities will include:

- Creating a black and white visual image with construction paper
- Painting a black, white, and various shades of grey picture
- Shading shapes
- Painting two butterflies, using one colour, plus white to create different values of that colour

Dramatic Arts: Having been introduced to a variety of puppet types, students will complete a sock puppet, develop a character for the puppet, and practise the art of puppetry with prepared puppet scripts.

Music: As we approach spring, it is time to begin preparing for the spring concert. The Grade 4 class will prepare Orff and choir repertoire as well as continue to develop their skills playing the recorder. Music class will focus on:

- Orchestral Orff repertoire
- Major and minor solfege
- Recorder and treble clef notation from G to D
- Simple two-part singing

Physical Education: Students will begin playing floor hockey this month. They will learn:

- Rules of the game
- Skills (puck handling, passing, shooting)
- How to play offence and defence

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

Upcoming Events

March 2nd – ASCI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga Christian Academy

March 3rd – Pizza Lunch; Term 2 Ends – Reports Sent Home

March 9th - Parent/Teacher Interviews – Term 2

March 10th – Maple Syrup Festival – Bruce's Mill

March 13th – March Break Begins

March 27th – Classes Resume

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