

February 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

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: During the month of February, students will concentrate on researching, writing, fine-tuning, and effectively presenting speeches. Specific skills include:

- Speech writing: introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion
- Organizing ideas around a thesis
- Proofreading and revision
- Impromptu speaking using rhetorical devices
- Formal discussion
- Choosing and utilizing vocabulary that is best suited for a specific audience
- Presenting claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples
- Using appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation
- Integrating visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims, and add interest

Christian Education: The Grade 8 students will continue to investigate Jesus with a real detective as they finish reading *Cold-Case Christianity For Kids* by J. Warner Wallace and Sue Wallace. Students will then practise defending their faith as we start our next unit titled *Wrecking Crew Apologetics*. This curriculum was designed specifically to help middle school students learn to refute the arguments against Christianity in a winsome way. Students will examine:

- The problems with evolution
- The case for design

History/Geography: During the month of February, students will explore how conflicts in Canada in the 1830s and 1840s were resolved. More specifically, students will be able to answer the following questions:

- What types of conflict have occurred in Canadian history?
- How can conflict between groups of people be successfully resolved?
- How has conflict brought about change in history?

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

- Part-to-whole
- Whole-to-part
- Either-or

Mathematics: Students will continue their geometry unit, focusing on angles. They will also begin to expand their skills by using manipulatives in real world problems which includes the use of protractors and other devices. Students will work with:

- Angles that share a vertex
- Interior and exterior angles

Grade 8 – 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.

Science: In preparation for the science fair in the spring, students will continue to examine the scientific method by:

- learning the process
- applying the process in experiments

They will also start to focus on the Human Body in the following areas:

- Muscular structure and function
- Skeletal structure and function

Latin 4: In February, students will complete Chapters 20 (types of verbs and nouns) and 21 (the verb "to be" in the past tense) in *Latin for Children, Primer A*. Students will:

- Continue to review noun declension, parsing, and vocabulary from previous chapters
- Learn and work with all new vocabulary from Chapters 20-21
- Explore the different noun cases/jobs, as well as the different kinds of verbs
- Learn how to conjugate the verb "to be" in the past tense
- Complete a quiz for each chapter

French 3: In February, the Level 3 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 rehearsing, memorizing, and acting out the play *Un jour bizarre*
- Revise and present the 'deleted scene' from the play that students began in January
- Work with a list of vocabulary words in preparation for a spelling test
- 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: This month, students will continue exploring perception in the Renaissance and begin to explore sculpture through the Renaissance period. Topics include:

- Perspective drawings
- Inspiration and rebellion in the Renaissance
- Hand sculptures

Music: In the second half of the school year, the Grades 5-8 students will focus more heavily on developing choral skills. They will also begin to learn more complex ukulele music and refine their score reading abilities. Specific skills include:

- Sight-singing from a score with solfege
- Intervals
- Harmonizing a melody
- Triplet rhythms
- Key signatures

Physical Education: In February, students will continue playing basketball, focusing on:

- Skill development (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.