

March 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: This month in Writing & Rhetoric, students will read the autobiography of Carry A. Nation, one of the leaders of the temperance movement famous for destroying saloons. In this unit, students will practise:

- Summarization
- Annotation
- Comparing and contrasting images
- Weighing the strengths and weaknesses of a historical figure
- Making a judgment about that historical figure
- Critical thinking
- Imitating a variety of sentences
- Employing parallelism to grab audience attention
- Impromptu speaking using rhetorical devices
- Formal discussion

Christian Education: Students will continue to practise defending their faith as we further explore Wrecking Crew Apologetics. This curriculum was designed specifically to help middle school students learn to refute the arguments against Christianity in a winsome way. This month, students will examine the case for Jesus as the Messiah as they:

- Define the word prophecy
- Explain how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies
- Disprove the objection that
 - the gospels were altered to match what Jesus did
 - Jesus intentionally fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies
 - Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies by accident
 - the Old Testament prophecies were taken out of context and did not apply to Jesus
- Create
 - a series of questions to ask those that doubt Jesus' messiahship and expose the weaknesses in their argument
 - an illustrated acrostic poem that addresses Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and answers to common objections

History/Geography: During the month of March, students will continue to explore the mystery of history and controversies as they study:

- William Wilberforce and the Atlantic slave trade
- Famous American Abolitionists: Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass
- The American Civil War: Part 1

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

- What is a generalization?
- Hasty generalization

Mathematics: Students will learn how to make and draw the following:

- Bisectors
- Triangles
- Quadrilaterals

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.

- Scale drawings

Science: Students will continue to develop their experiments for the science fair as well as study the human body in the following areas:

- Muscular structure and function
- Skeletal structure and function

Latin 4: In March, students will review a few grammatical concepts as well as start Chapter 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 Chapter 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 on noun declension

French 3: In March, 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*
- Work with a new list of vocabulary words in preparation for a spelling test
- Continue to practise answering open-ended questions in French using familiar vocabulary
- Begin to learn how to conjugate verbs with the subject pronouns *je, tu, il* and *elle*

Visual Arts: Students, this month, will complete their sculpting unit and will begin to explore the art of print making. Topics will include:

- Final review of Renaissance artist
- History of Print making
- Albrecht Durer
- Print making using stencil print

Music: The grade eight music class continues to progress in their choral singing, note reading, and ukulele ensemble. This month, we begin a new unit in ukulele and will continue to refine both vocal technique and reading notation as we prepare for the spring concert. Specific topics covered are:

- Key signatures and the F scale on ukulele
- Spring concert repertoire for ukulele and choir
- Sight-singing with jumps of intervals of a third

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.