

April 2017

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grades 1/2 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco  
Teacher

Grade 1 and  
Grade 2

Grade 1  
Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

**Language Arts:** Students will continue to build phonetic awareness, expand their vocabulary, study classic stories and complete a novel study. Grade 1 students will continue formal spelling and practise writing in complete sentences. Language arts topics include:

Phonics:

- Sounds: *long o, long e, long u, oo*
- Sight words: *these, against, now, every, neighbor, behind, once, come, and about*

Vocabulary

- Compound Words
- School Words
- City words

Literature

- *The Grasshopper and the Ant*
- *The Three Wishes*
- *Robin Hood* by Annie Ingle

**Christian Education:** Since Easter will be celebrated this month, Grade 1 students will skip ahead to the New Testament to explore the meaning and stories of Easter. Students will focus on:

- Jesus riding into Jerusalem
- Jesus and His enemies
- The last supper
- The betrayal, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

**History / Geography:** Students in Grade 1 are always excited to travel back through history and learn about what life was like in another time and place! In April, students will conclude their study on ancient Rome. Students will explore:

- Augustus Caesar
- The weakening and collapse of the Roman empire

**Mathematics:** In mathematics, Grade 1 students will conclude a chapter titled *Addition and Subtraction to 40*. Students will practise adding three numbers and apply their previously learned skills of addition and subtraction with and without regrouping to real world problems. Students will then begin a chapter in which they will use mental math strategies for:

- Mental addition
- Mental subtraction

## Grade 1 – 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:** In April, Grade 1 students will study the scientific method. Throughout this month, students will investigate the scientific method through various simple experiments. Students will complete a class experiment and present their findings at the science fair on April 13th! Students will then begin a study on the life cycle of butterflies near the end of the month.

**Latin 1:** Grade 1 students love to practise Latin vocabulary. Please encourage your student to teach your family what they are learning this month! Topics will include words that pertain to:

- The seasons
- The sky
- Water

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will begin observing nature in art! Students will learn about the artist Claude Monet and discover his masterpiece "The Lily Pond". Topics include:

- Who is Monet?
- Techniques used by Monet
- Easter craft
- Creating a Monet masterpiece

**Dramatic Arts:** This month in drama, students will complete a unit based on Aesop fables. Topics will include:

- "The Turtle and the Hare" skit preparation

**Music:** As we enter the final months of the school year, the Grade 1 class will begin preparing repertoire for the spring concert. They will gather and apply their knowledge of rhythmic notation to their singing repertoire and begin learning a formal Orff arrangement. Specific skills include:

- Tempos and time signatures
- Playing and listening as an ensemble
- Reading a score
- Identifying rhythmic patterns by listening

**Physical Education:** In gym class, students will continue practising basketball skills and then apply these skills in a game. Students will explore how to:

- Dribble a basketball
- Pass a basketball
- Shoot a basketball

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

## Upcoming Events

- April 4<sup>th</sup> – ACSI Chess Tournament – Brampton Christian School
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Maple Syrup Festival – Bruce's Mill
- April 7<sup>th</sup> & April 20<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Lunch
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Firehall Tour – Central York Fire Station - JK – Gr. 2
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – Science Fair – Cedarview Gym
- April 14<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday & Easter Monday – No School
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – ACSI Badminton – Stouffville Christian School
- April 27<sup>th</sup> – ACSI Math Olympics – 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.