

April 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 practise the phonograms and spelling rules associated with weekly lessons. Reading fluency, vocabulary development, reading comprehension and writing well-constructed responses or explanations to questions will continue to be important exercises in the classroom.

Grammar: Students will begin a study of subject pronouns—what they are, how they are organized, correct usage (subject/verb agreement), and identify their antecedents. Sentence analysis will continue to be practised regularly. Along with identifying the types of sentences and the parts of speech, students will be encouraged to use proper punctuation, capitalization and vary sentence structure in written assignments. Students will continue the novel study of *A Single Shard*.

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

- Chronological thinking
- Critical thinking
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Main idea
- Character analysis
- Sentence construction—subordinate clause/subordinate conjunction
- Using synonyms—nouns and adjectives
- Amplification
- Imaginative storytelling—dramatic reading

Literature: Novel – *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park, *The Dog and Her Reflection*, *The Fisherman and His Wife*, *The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf*, selected passages from *A Cricket in Times Square*, *Us Too* (poem), *The Fox and the Grapes*

Christian Education: Students will continue to study the lives of Isaac and Jacob before moving on to the life of Joseph. God remained faithful even when His people broke trust with Him. Lesson titles include:

- Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel
- Jacob’s Sons
- Jacob Flees from Laban
- God Wrestles with Jacob
- A Family Reunion
- The Favorite Dreamer
- Joseph Sold into Slavery
- Joseph in Potiphar’s House
- The Cupbearer and the Baker: Dreams

History/Geography: Students will continue to study the exploration and colonization of the New World with an in-depth focus on the explorers and First Nations people of Canada. Topics will include:

- The Seven Main Cultural Areas of Canada’s First People
- Vikings in Canada (review from previous study)
- John Cabot
- The Portuguese in Canada
- Jacques Cartier
- Samuel de Champlain

Mathematics: This month, students will continue to work with decimals, and will learn the following:

- Adding decimals
- Subtracting decimals

Students will then be introduced to angles, and focus on:

- Understanding angles
- Measuring angles

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: Students will begin a unit on investigating soil along with researching and preparing a science fair class project to coincide with this unit. Students will explore the following questions:

- 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 continue to learn vocabulary words associated with some common prepositions (that are also English prefixes) and some adjectives that describe virtues. Students will review the future tense of the verb *being* prior to a review and unit assessment. Chapters titles include:

- Where Things Are, Part 1
- Where Things Are, Part 2
- Growing Virtues
- Review (Chapters 20-24)

French 1: In April, 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*
- Continue learning to answer open-ended questions in French and write a quiz on *Les questions partielles*
- Work with a new set of spelling words in French
- Learn how to say the date and describe the weather in French

Visual Arts: Students will continue to 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 gray picture
- Shading shapes
- Painting two butterflies, using one colour plus white, and creating different values of that colour

Dramatic Arts: Students will complete their work with sock puppets. They will:

- make a sock puppet
- develop a character for the puppet
- practise the art of puppetry with prepared puppet scripts

Music: In April, the Grade 4 class will continue to expand their knowledge of notes on the treble clef staff as well as practise their Orff and recorder repertoire for the spring concert. Specifically, students will learn:

- Spring concert repertoire
- Varied ways of playing with mallets
- Dynamics
- F# on the recorder

Physical Education: Students will begin playing the game of badminton this month, and will focus on the following:

- Rules of the game
- Serving
- Hitting and receiving
- Strategy

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

Upcoming Events

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