

May 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: In Language Arts, students will work to complete the novel study *A Single Shard* before beginning a unit on the classic tale of *Gulliver’s Travels* (abridged).

Grammar: Students will finish working with subject pronouns before focusing on interrogative sentences. Students will continue practising proper punctuation, capitalization and vary sentence structure in all written assignments. Topics include:

- Sentence analysis
- Identifying types of sentences and parts of speech

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

- Chronological thinking
- Critical thinking
- Comparison and contrast
- Identifying the 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
- Other works: *The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf* by Aesop, *Us Too* a poem by A.A. Milne, *The Fox and the Grapes* by Aesop, *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift, the 23rd Psalm

Christian Education: Students will continue to study the life of Joseph before learning about Moses and the Exodus. God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams, thereby saving many lives. God used the difficult events in Joseph’s life for good. Students will discover that God worked through Joseph to preserve His chosen people and they would become a great nation – the fulfilment of God’s promise to Abraham. Lesson titles include:

- Joseph in Potiphar’s House
- The Cupbearer and the Baker: Dreams
- Joseph Rules in Egypt
- Joseph and His Brothers: First Visit
- Joseph and His Brothers: Second Visit
- Reunion in Egypt
- The Deaths of Jacob and Joseph
- Birth of Moses
- Moses’ Exile
- God Calls Moses
- Let My People Go!

History/Geography: This month’s history studies will focus on early Canadian explorers and Canada’s First Nations. Students will conduct research and prepare a presentation on an explorer of their choice. Sources include books from the town library, *The Story of the World Vol. 2*, and several approved internet websites. Students will:

- Become “the expert” for the explorer s/he has chosen to research and present to the class
- Work to complete a PowerPoint presentation to complement their presentation

Mathematics: This month, students will work with squares and rectangles and find the following:

- Area and perimeter with formulas
- Area and perimeter with grids
- Area and perimeter of composite figures

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 complete the investigation of soil followed by a unit assessment. Then, students will focus on an investigation of plants. Questions considered in this new unit are:

- What is the life cycle of plants?
- Where do plants live?
- How are plants structured?
- What do plants need?
- How do plants interact with their surroundings?
- How do fossils help us learn more about plants?
- How are plants grouped?

Latin 2: Following a unit test, Latin 2 students will continue to practise the first declension noun endings and then move on to second declension nouns. New vocabulary will center on the following topics:

- Time for bed!
- A time for everything
- Colours
- Around the palace

French 1: In May, the Level 1 French class will continue with the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology), with students practising the play at home using the online portal or DVD. Students will:

- Continue to memorize and rehearse the play *Les trois petits cochons* in preparation for the spring concert
- Continue working with their new set of vocabulary words in French and write a spelling test
- Learn the song *Quel temps fait-il?* and continue learning to describe the weather in French

Visual Arts: Students will conclude the unit on the element of value and move on to the study of the element of texture. As a special assignment this month, students will create, design, and paint a "piece of pottery" that coincides with the novel *A Single Shard*. Other projects will include:

- Painting two butterflies using one colour plus white, and creating different values of that colour
- Rubbings
- Textured paint collage

Dramatic Arts: Students will learn about dramatic structure and continue to work on developing a puppet character along with using stories and familiar fables to write scripts.

Music: The Innova students are very busy preparing for the spring concert on May 25th. Students are:

- Developing the ability to sing in tune with good vocal tone as part of a choir
- Reading musical notation
- Learning to play in an Orff ensemble
- Polishing recorder pieces

Physical Education: Students will prepare for the upcoming track and field meet by learning techniques in the selected events. They will have an opportunity to try the events in class and then choose which ones they want to compete in. Events include:

- Ball throw
- Broad jump
- Long jump
- Triple jump
- 60, 100, 200, and 400, 800, 1500, metre races
- Relay race

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

Upcoming Events

May 1 – Christian School Expo – Gym
May 4th – Shape Conference – Main Sanctuary
May 5th – Pastors' Appreciation Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
May 11th – InSchoolwear 50% Off Sale at Innova
May 12th – Pizza Lunch & AMICA Visit
May 22nd – Victoria Day – No School
May 25th – Pizza Lunch & Spring Concert
May 30th & June 1st – Track and Field – Gr. 7-8 & 3-6 – Centennial Stadium

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