

April 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, students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Students will also continue working in their *Writing & Rhetoric* book as they are guided through the steps of writing their first multi-paragraph research papers. Specific lessons will include:

Literature – *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

- Vocabulary
- Characterization
- Similes & metaphors
- Descriptive writing
- Comprehension questions & analysis of text
- Digging deeper – Making the text more personal by applying God's Word

*Writing & Rhetoric*

- Note taking
- Paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism
- When and how to cite sources
- Differentiating between reliable and unreliable sources
- Practise creating in-text citations and building a *Works Cited* list

**Christian Education:** During the month of April, students will read and explore the gospel of John during morning devotions. In class, students will thoughtfully read and discuss a chapter from Bruce Ware's book *Big Truths for Young Hearts* titled "Who is Jesus?" Titles include:

- A Person Who Was Alive Long Before He Was Born
- The Incarnation – God and Man Together
- Jesus Lived in the Power of the Spirit
- Jesus Resisted Temptation, Living a Sinless Life
- What Christians of the Early Church Came to Believe about Christ

**History/Geography:** Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how both America and Canada became the great nations they are today. Our focus from now until the end of the year will be the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Lessons during the month of April will include:

Canadian History – British North America (BNA) in the Mid-1800s

- Who were the people of BNA?
- What was life like in BNA?
- Physical, political, and economic features of BNA
- Factors that drew the BNA colonies together

American History – The War Between the States: Part 1

- Abraham Lincoln and secession
- The Rebels and the Yanks
- Battles of 1861: Fort Sumter and Bull Run
- Battles of 1862: The Ironclads and Shiloh

**Logic:** Students will continue to explore logical fallacies. This month's lessons will include:

- What is a generalization?
- Hasty generalizations
- What is an analogy?
- Hasty analogies

**Mathematics:** Students will learn how to calculate the volume and surface area of the following three-dimensional shapes:

- Cylinders
- Cones

## 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.

- Spheres
- Pyramids

**Science:** This month, students are preparing for the science fair held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. They will also study the human body focusing on the following areas:

- Muscle types
- Skin structure and function

**Latin 4:** In April, students will complete and write a quiz on Chapter 21 (the verb "to be" in the past tense) in *Latin for Children, Primer A*. Students will then work on Chapter 22 (prepositions and prepositional phrases). Students will:

- Continue to review noun declension, verb conjugation, parsing, and vocabulary from previous chapters
- Learn and work with all new vocabulary from Chapters 21 and 22
- Explore the different noun cases/jobs in Latin
- Learn the definition and purpose of prepositional phrases and how they are expressed in Latin
- Examine authentic Latin texts including song lyrics and Scripture

**French 3:** In April, 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
- Practise conjugating verbs with the subject pronouns *je, tu, il, elle* and *on*

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will continue to explore the art produced for trade with Africa and Asia in the Renaissance. Topics include:

- The importance of Giorgio Sideri
- The Ming Dynasty and porcelain art
- Turkish porcelain art
- Creating a porcelain plate

**Dramatic Arts:** This month, students will participate in a miming workshop. Topics Include:

- The history of mime
- Mime techniques
- Mime charades
- Mime presentation

**Music:** In April, students will continue to expand their knowledge of ukulele, the treble clef staff, and two-part harmony as well as practise repertoire for the spring concert. Specifically, they will cover:

- Ensemble playing on boomwhackers
- Spring choral and ukulele repertoire
- Chording on the ukulele
- Listening exercises

**Physical Education:** Students will begin to learn 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 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.