

May 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 continue to read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. During the month of May, 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 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 May, students will continue to read and explore the Gospel of John during morning devotions. In class, students will thoughtfully read and discuss another chapter from Bruce Ware's book *Big Truths for Young Hearts* titled "The Work That Jesus Has Done". Sections within this chapter include:

- Jesus' death shows God's justice and His mercy toward our sin
- Jesus paid the full penalty for sin
- Jesus' victory over Satan by His payment for sin
- Jesus' resurrection: the proof that Christ's death for sin worked
- Jesus is King over all
- But is Jesus really the only Saviour?

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 19th century. Lessons during the month of May will include:

Canadian History – The Events of Confederation

- Creating a nation
- The British North American Act, 1867
- How did the map of Canada change?

American History – The War Between the States: Part 2

- The emancipation proclamation
- Battles of 1863: Chancellorsville and Gettysburg
- The Battles of 1864-1865 and Sherman's march
- The surrender of Robert E. Lee

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

- Post hoc ergo propter hoc
- Post hoc ergo propter hoc in statistics
- Proof by lack of evidence

Mathematics: This month, students will be learning about statistics. They will focus on the following:

- Interpreting quartiles and interquartile range
- Stem and leaf, and box plots
- Mean absolute deviation
- Random samplings

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.

Science: In science class this month, students will learn about heat, with a focus on the following:

- Particle theory
- Heat transfer
- Heat and energy

Latin 4: In May, students will complete and write a quiz on chapter 22 (prepositional phrases and the imperfect tense of the verb "to be") in *Latin for Children, Primer A*. Students will then move on to chapter 24 (prepositions and the future tense of the verb "to be"). Students will:

- Review the sentence patterns, noun and verb jobs, noun declension, and verb conjugation which they have learned
- Learn and work with all vocabulary from chapters 22 and 24
- Explore the differences in the conjugation of the verb "to be" in three different tenses
- Examine authentic Latin texts including song lyrics and Scripture

French 3: In May, the Level 3 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 *Un jour bizarre* in preparation for the spring concert
- Continue to practise answering open-ended questions in French and write a quiz on this topic
- Continue conjugating verbs with the subject pronouns *je, tu, il, elle* and on and write a quiz on verb conjugation
- Learn and apply the rap explaining how to contract French words ending in "e" when followed by a word starting with a vowel

Visual Arts: This month in visual arts, students will fast forward in time as they begin exploring the modern renaissance. Topics will include:

- Modern Renaissance architecture
- Techniques behind sketching buildings
- Modern Renaissance interior design

Dramatic Arts: This month, students will continue to work on miming and begin preparing spring skits for Market Day. Topics include:

- The history of mime
- Mime techniques
- Mime charades
- Mime presentation
- Spring skit practises

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

- Learning to sing as part of an ensemble
- Developing the ability to sing in harmony
- Developing good vocal tone
- Polishing ukulele pieces and learning to play in an ensemble

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
- Long jump
- Triple jump
- Shot put
- 60, 100, 200, and 400 metre races

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.