

June 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 continue working with a weekly spelling list of 20 words, noting syllabication, phonemic structure (phonograms) and applicable spelling rules.

Literature: Selections include an excerpt from *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift; *The Tale of the Chinese Farmer*; *The Trees Choose a King*; *The Ant and the Grasshopper*; Rhymes—*Cackle, Cackle Little Goose*; *Robert Barnes & Baa, Baa Black Sheep*; *The Donkey and His Driver*. Students will:

- Learn to identify the use and purpose of satire
- Examine the effect of perspective
- Compare and contrast settings and characters
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between choices and their consequences

Grammar: Students are encouraged to use proper punctuation, capitalization, and vary sentence structure in written assignments across the curriculum. This month’s grammar study will focus on:

- Interrogative sentences
- Sentence analysis
- Identifying the types of sentences
- Identifying the parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, and vary sentence structure in written assignments.

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

- Chronological and critical thinking
- Analysis of illustration
- Identifying character traits and point of view
- Prewriting and story planning
- Using context for word and concept recognition
- Writing dialogue
- Using synonyms—nouns and adjectives
- Writing a summary
- Imaginative storytelling

Christian Education: Students will continue to study the life of Moses and the Exodus. God prepared Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Then ten plagues displayed God’s power and might to the Israelites and the Egyptians. God fulfilled his promise to Abraham and his descendants by making the people of Israel into a great nation during the years in Egypt. The scripture memory verse for this unit is found in Nehemiah 9:9-12

(NIV). Lesson titles include:

- God Calls Moses
- Let My People Go!
- Moses and Aaron
- Plagues 1-6
- Plagues 7-9
- The Tenth Plague
- Passover
- The Exodus
- Israel’s Celebration

History/Geography Students will explore the First Nations peoples of Canada. Through small group projects, students will:

- Research, design, and create a presentation with artifacts “found in an archeological dig”
- Use selected books from the library as well as *A First History of Canada* textbook to gather information

Mathematics: For the month of June, students will review all units taught and focus on the important foundational skills in each unit.

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: Following a unit test on investigating plants, students will begin a unit featuring an investigation of our natural resources. Some of the questions considered will include:

- What is a natural resource?
- How do we use water, and where do we find it?
- What are the different kinds and forms of water?
- What is the water cycle?
- How can we take care of water?
- How can we use and take care of air?
- What is air pollution?

Latin 2: Students will continue to practise the first declension and second declension of masculine and neuter noun endings as well as review the present, past, and future tense endings of verbs. Following the chapters introducing new vocabulary, students will complete a unit review and assessment before completing an end-of-book review. New vocabulary will center on the following topics:

- Colours
- Around the palace
- Adjectives

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

- Work with a new set of vocabulary words in French, learning the gestures for all the words
- Complete a spelling test on the new vocabulary list
- Continue to practise saying the date and describing the weather in French
- Complete listening and reading comprehension quizzes based on short videos watched in class

Visual Arts: Students will study the element of texture and complete the following projects:

- A pottery piece
- Rubbings
- Textured paint collage

Dramatic Arts: Students will continue to prepare original scripts and practise puppetry for a performance on Market Day.

Music: For the month of June, the Grade 4 class will review what they have learned as well as continue working through the recorder curriculum. They will also do a critical listening and history unit. Topics include:

- New notes and repertoire for recorder
- History of composers
- Instruments of the orchestra
- Critical listening

Physical Education: To end this year, students will have the opportunity to experience the game of golf. They will learn the following skills:

- Stance (putting versus chipping versus driving)
- Grip (putting versus chipping versus driving)
- Swings (putting versus chipping versus driving)

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

Upcoming Events

June 1 – Track and Field – Grade 7/8 - Centennial Stadium

June 2 – Pasta Lunch

June 7 – Graduation Event – Gr. 7/8

June 9 – Pizza Lunch

June 12 – Science Centre Field Trip

June 17 – Innova Family Picnic – Bradford, West Gwillimbury

June 19 – Market Day & Pizza Lunch

June 20 – Last Day of School – Lunch Dismissal & Reports Sent Home

June 21-23 – PA Days for Staff - ACCS Conference

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