

June 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:** During the month of June, Grade 8 students will read and analyze *The Necklace*, by Guy de Maupassant. This classic tale centers around Mme. Mathilde Loisel – a woman fated to her status in life. Instead of accepting her position in life, she feels cheated. She is selfish and self-involved, tortured and angry that she can't purchase the jewels and clothing that she desires. Throughout our study of de Maupassant's short story, students will:

- Identify the elements of plot and narration
- Identify and apply literary terms related to characterization
- Understand how to use literary terminology accurately, including setting, character, conflict, plot, resolution, dialect, and point of view
- Understand an author's point of view or purpose
- Practise reading fluency
- Practise higher level thinking skills: predicting, inferring, analyzing, and synthesizing information
- Understand and practise using new vocabulary
- Write an original short story (or skit) that contains the following elements: a moral, an internal or external conflict, a clear setting/time period, dynamic and static characters, and a narrator with a specific point of view (omniscient, first person, or third person)

**Christian Education:** This month, students will learn the basic tenants of Christianity and what it means to be a Christian by examining the Apostle's Creed. At the conclusion of our unit, when asked orally or in writing, students will be able to:

- Recite the Apostle's Creed
- Define omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent
- Defend the importance of God as the creator of the universe within Christian doctrine
- Summarize biblical examples of God as omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent
- Summarize biblical examples of Jesus as God
- Disprove the statement that Christians believe in three separate gods
- Defend the importance of Jesus' virgin birth within Christian doctrine
- Summarize Jesus' suffering and evidence that points to His death on the cross
- Defend the importance of heaven and hell within Christian doctrine
- Explain how someone can accept Jesus as their personal saviour

**History/Geography:** During the last month of school, Grade 8 students will take a much-needed break from the study of war and politics. This month, students will study Impressionism, a popular style of painting that became famous in the 1870s. Our study of this movement includes, but is not limited to, the following distinguished artists:

- Claude Monet
- Edgar Degas
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Mary Cassatt

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

- Exigency
- Repetition
- Appeal to tradition and appeal to hi-tech

**Mathematics:** Students will spend this month reviewing all units taught focusing on the important foundational skills in each unit.

**Science:** In science this month, students will explore fluids focusing on:

- Fluid properties
- Mixtures
- Density

## 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.

**Latin 4:** In June, students will complete chapter 25 (accusative prepositions) and chapter 27 (present, past and future tense conjugations of the irregular verb *īre*, "to go") in *Latin for Children, Primer A*. Students will:

- Continue to review the sentence patterns, noun and verb jobs, noun declension, and verb conjugation which they have learned
- Learn and work with all new vocabulary from chapters 25 and 27
- Learn more about irregular verbs in Latin: what they are and what makes them irregular
- Read about the life of Augustus, the first emperor of Rome, and about the history of Rome during that period

**French 3:** In June, the Level 3 French class will continue with the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology), with students practising songs and gestures at home using the online portal or DVD. Students will:

- Learn and apply the rap explaining how to contract French words ending in "e" when followed by a word starting with a vowel
- Learn and apply the rap explaining how to combine certain prepositions and determinants in French (e.g. *à + le = au*, *à + les = aux*, etc.)
- Complete listening and reading comprehension quizzes based on short videos watched in class
- Describe the plot of one of these videos in writing, while applying all spelling and grammar conventions learned thus far

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will continue to explore watercolor and create their watercolor landscape paintings. Topics include:

- Experimenting with watercolor
- Sketching the landscape
- Using watercolor in a Group of Seven landscape design
- End of year review

**Dramatic Arts:** This month, students will continue to prepare for their Market Day skit of a scene from *Tom Sawyer*. Topics include:

- Character development
- Line memorization strategies
- Play practices

**Music:** In June students will have an opportunity to interact with historical and theoretical areas of music. Topics include:

- Critical listening of classical works of music
- Music history
- Composition and melody writing
- Tonic and dominant
- Sight singing solfege

**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.