

September 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Melissa Vecchiarelli completed an Honours Bachelor degree in Sociology, and a Bachelor of Education from Queens' University. Melissa has a love and passion for overseas missions and education. She has had the opportunity to travel to many places all over the world, and was privileged to teach English in Thailand, and English in Zambia through Village of Hope, Africa. What Melissa finds fascinating about classical Christian education, is that children are encouraged to think critically, while being taught with a Biblical view of the world. In her free time, she enjoys serving at her church, being outside, hiking, bike riding, traveling and anything to do with art. Melissa is engaged and is getting married in December.



Melissa Vecchiarelli
Teacher

Grade 1 and
Grade 2



Grade 1
Miss Melissa Vecchiarelli
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We would like to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning families! Innova is truly blessed and awed by God's grace and goodness as we enter our fourth year. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with your family in educating your child for the glory of God.

Grade 1 students are actively engaged in learning foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. We seek to provide a safe and nurturing classroom environment where students can deepen their awareness of God's love and relationship with Him, as well as meet their potential for academic success.

Bible and History: This year, the study of Bible and history are integrated into a seamless narrative. The study of Ancient civilizations, with a focus on Egypt, is integrated with Old Testament biblical events. Students will begin to understand history as God's unfolding plan of redemption and appreciate that they are a part of this story. In the month of September, students will read the story of Creation and the Fall of Adam and Eve. Students will:

- Marvel at the beauty of God's creation
- Understand that we are made in God's image
- Explore how God ordered the world
- Engage in creative activities to support understanding
- Learn the creation song
- Locate Mesopotamia on a map and identify the Fertile Crescent, and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- Begin to learn the Middle East geography song

Literature and Vocabulary: Students will begin the year focusing on a unit that explores returning to school after summer holidays. Throughout the unit, students will:

- Demonstrate comprehension of a text read aloud and use implicit information to make inferences about the motives or behaviours of characters
- Identify details from a passage read aloud and provide answers to "who", "what", "where", "when", "why" and "how"
- Use context clues to define unfamiliar vocabulary
- Identify rhyming words
- Explore symbolism
- Engage in activities to build classroom unity
- Explore similarities and differences

Reading Fluency: At the beginning of the school year, Grade 1 students are assessed and reading instruction is individualized. As they progress, students will build and refine oral reading fluency and reading comprehension skills. Throughout the year, students will:

- Apply phonics skills to reading selections
- Read clearly with expression observing punctuation
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions and draw inferences from the text
- Sequence and retell stories
- Identify characters, setting, problem, and solution
- Predict outcomes
- Relate story events to personal experiences
- Identify author, character, setting, and plot
- Identify genre as fiction or non-fiction, fantasy, folktale or poetry
- Identify biblical character traits and moral messages and lessons in literature

Spelling and Phonics and Penmanship: Spelling, phonics, and penmanship will be learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will master the first 26 phonograms (single letter). This month, students will:

- Read all 26 single letter phonograms and say the correct sounds
- Spell all 26 single letter phonograms as they hear them
- Demonstrate proper letter formation using proper posture, paper position, pencil grip and pressure.
- Learn and practise lower case letters: a, c, j, d, g, o, qu, e, l, b, f, h, and k.

Writing and Grammar: Students will begin writing by understanding and practising writing sentences. This month, students will:

- Know the elements of a sentence
- Begin a sentence with a capital letter
- Understand and properly punctuate the four types of sentences
- Learn the sentence song

Latin: Students will learn and spend time each day reviewing greeting words and begin a unit titled "Making Friends." Songs and chants help children learn Latin in an enjoyable and engaging way. The following vocabulary will be reviewed:

- "How are you?"

Grade 1 – 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.

- "What is your name?"
- "My name is..."

Mathematics: Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practising math facts with the CalculLadder math drill program. Student progress through this program on an individual basis. Students will:

- Review counting objects from 0 to 10
- Read and write 0 to 10 in numbers and words
- Compare numbers using the words greater than or less than
- Practise making number patterns using number cubes
- Investigate number bonds
- Learn that a part consists of one of two or more smaller parts that make up a whole

Science: This month, students will begin exploring what science is and how they can use their five senses in science inquiry. Topics this month will include:

- What is science and what is an experiment?
- Sense of smell, sight, touch, taste, sound
- Methods to measure
- The scientific process

Visual Arts: In visual arts this month, students will begin the year by creating their own art portfolios to collect and display their artwork. Students will begin investigating the elements of design in ancient artwork focusing particularly on the use of line and shapes. Students will:

- Learn and observe different types of lines used by artists to suggest movement
- Look at several ancient artworks from Mesopotamia, Africa, Australia and Europe to see how lines have been used throughout history to communicate movement
- Create lines and shapes of their own using learned techniques to portray animals from God's creation
- Combine their work in a mural gallery similar to wall paintings and cave drawings

Music: Music is perhaps the most widely used form of artistic expression in the world and it is such a joy to have the chance to teach the tools of musical expression to the Grade 1/2 class this year! In September, we will revisit some of the basics introduced last year as well as some new concepts that we will build on through the year. Areas of study will include:

- Pulse
- Melodic contour
- Vocal technique
- Crescendo/decelscendo
- SLM - echo and composition
- Stick Notation - reading and composition
- Ritardando and accelerando
- Same/different phrases
- Composer: Mozart
- Listening: *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Movement 1* By Mozart
- Orchestra: Intro to the orchestra and sections

Physical Education: In physical education, students will begin the school year with a unit on soccer. Students will practise skills to develop agility, flexibility, endurance, and gross motor skills. Students will be graded based on their participation, respectful attitude, sportsmanship and physical skills demonstrated in class. Soccer skills include:

- Passing the ball to a teammate
- Dribbling with control
- Shooting with correct form

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

Upcoming Events

September 5th - First Day of Classes

September 9th - Back to School Social at the Makarenko's – 12-2 p.m.

September 25th – Picture Day – Lifetouch

September 25th – Immunization for Grade 7 students (voluntary) –
York Region Public Health

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