

September 2017

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 4

Mrs. Cheryl Smith

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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

*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 4 students are actively engaged in building foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with reading, discussion, singing, 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.*

**Christian Education:** Students will learn what the Bible is and how it came to us. The memory work for this unit is 1 Peter 1:16-21. Students will be given a copy of the scripture passage to study at home with a noted “due date” for the recitation in class. Topics include:

- How the story of God’s people was passed from generation to generation by word of mouth.
- The development of writing and its influence and importance in biblical history

**Literature:** In literature this month, students will read, discuss, and respond to the following selections from a unit titled *Lessons Learned*:

- *The Wind and the Sun*
- *The Bundle of Sticks*
- *Why Larks Flew Away*
- *Weather or Not* (non-fiction articles)

**Writing and Penmanship:** Students will learn to write narratives about their own experiences. They will also work at improving their handwriting skills with practice sheets from the *Cursive First* program. Activities will include:

- Using journals to promote writing fluency
- Writing in observation diaries
- Writing experience logs
- Writing in response to the literature read in class

**Spelling and Grammar:** As students study grammar and spelling, they develop a greater awareness of how the English language is structured and apply their skills to writing across the curriculum. This month, students will review the 70 phonograms of the *Spell to Write to Read* program. Following a diagnostic spelling test, students will begin their first weekly spelling list on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and their first assessment on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Students will:

- Analyze their weekly spelling words
- Use spelling words in well-constructed sentences
- Learn spelling words associated with their weekly lists
- Identify the four types of sentences
- Use correct punctuation and capitalization when writing complete sentences
- Recognize nouns—both proper and common—in each sentence

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will strengthen their vocabulary and analytical skills through the study of Latin and Greek vocabulary. As we analyze English derivatives, they will understand how English words are constructed and develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

- Learn Greek and Latin words
- Learn Greek and Latin prefixes and suffixes
- Learn English derivatives and deconstruct English words
- Days of the week, months of the year, numbers

**French:** In French this month, students will learn simple vocabulary for everyday conversation. Through the use of the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) program, students will be introduced to vocabulary and corresponding gestures from the new play they will be performing this year. They will learn:

- Numbers from 1-10
- Colours
- Greeting
- Classroom vocabulary

## 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.

**History:** The focus of history this year is The Middle Ages from the collapse of the western Roman Empire to the Fall of Constantinople. Topics covered this month include the following chapter titles from *The Story of the World, Volume 2: The Middle Ages*:

- The Glory that was Rome
- The Early Days of Britain
- Christianity Comes to Britain
- The Byzantine Empire

**Mathematics:** Students will read, compare, and order numbers according to place value of their digits to 100,000. Understanding place value of whole numbers is the main focus of Chapter 1. Following the assessment of Chapter 1, students will review rounding numbers to estimate sums, differences, products and quotients. Highlights include:

- Representing numbers to 100,000 in three ways (word form, standard form, expanded form)
- Extending their understanding of place value to 6-digit numbers
- Applying what they know about comparing numbers to larger numbers
- Adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers

**Science:** In science class, students will spend the month of September addressing scientific inquiry and how it is used to learn about God's world and to solve problems. The following questions will be considered:

- What is teamwork?
- How can scientific investigations answer questions?
- How are science tools helpful?
- How do I deal with data?
- How do I use results?

**Visual Arts:** In visual arts this month, students will begin the year by creating their own art portfolios to collect and display their artwork. Over the course of this year, students will learn about the elements and principles of design and observe and practise artistic techniques to apply these elements and principles to their artwork. This month, students will:

- Study the use of colour and shape in medieval stained-glass art
- Examine the work of artists who created beauty to honour God in the windows that decorated cathedrals and churches
- Learn painting techniques
- Review basic colour theory

**Music:** Grades 3/4 are very important years in music class. Students begin to use the basic knowledge they have learned and apply it to more complex musical techniques. They begin to understand the musical staff and the theory behind the music they perform. In September, the Grade 3/4 class will review basic musical skills in preparation for the applications that will follow in the coming months. Topics include:

- The solfege scale
- Stick notation of whole, half, quarter, eighth notes and rests
- Unison singing
- Introduction to canons
- The musical staff: treble clef and notes from C4 to G5
- Maintaining a steady pulse
- Echoing short rhythms and solfege patterns
- The orchestra: Review sections and introduce brass instruments
- Listening: *Ride of the Valkyries* by Wagner

**Physical Education:** For the month of September, students will practise and train for the cross-country meet in the following areas:

- Pacing & breathing
- Developing endurance
- Working toward and monitoring progress
- Hills technique

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

## Upcoming Events

September 5<sup>th</sup> - First Day of Classes

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

September 25<sup>th</sup> – Picture Day – Lifetouch

September 25<sup>th</sup> – 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.