

September 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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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

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 8 students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to make meaningful connections and critically analyze ideas. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and lead students to deepen their understanding of God's purpose for His creation and their role in His redemptive plan.

Christian Education / Logic: Through discussion, reading, and film, students will begin the *Lightbearers* curriculum. Students will understand the tenets of the Christian worldview and how they compare to the doctrines of the leading non-Christian worldviews of our day. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life. This month's lessons will include:

- Culture as a major influencing factor on our behaviour, values, and beliefs
- What is worldview?
- Everyone has a worldview
- Ideas have consequences
- Evaluating personal entertainment preferences
- Biblical application strategies

Literature: Students will begin this year's literature study reading Saint Augustine's *Confessions*. They will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Augustine's *Confessions*. Augustine takes the reader on a spiritual journey through his confessions which are both an admission of guilt and an act of praise for his Heavenly Father.

Writing: During the month of September, students will study, understand, and compose a personal narrative with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Specific lessons will include:

- The writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing
- Writing traits with a focus on the following: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions
- Speaking and listening skills

Grammar: This month, students will focus on both nouns and adjectives as they apply what they learn to their personal narratives. Specific lessons in grammar will include:

- Nouns: singular and plural, subjects and subject compliments, objects and object compliments, appositives, and possessives
- Adjectives: descriptive and positional, demonstrative, interrogative, and indefinite, comparative and superlative, few and little, adjective phrases and clauses

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Grade 8 students will begin learning both Latin and Greek root words with our new *English from the Roots Up* curriculum. This month, students will learn words derived from the following four roots:

- Canis (Latin): canine, caninity, canine teeth, Canidae, Canis Major, Canicula
- Feles (Latin): feline, felinity, felinophilia, felinophobia, Felidae
- Leon (Greek): lion, lioness, leonine, dandelion, chameleon, leopard, Leo, lionize, lion's share
- Equus (Latin): Equidae, equestrian, equine, equestrienne

French: In Grade 8 French class, students will:

- Review vocabulary learned last year and corresponding gestures
- Learn words and actions related to a new play that they will perform using the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology) program
- Study the important grammatical concepts such as responding to questions in French
- Review the Bible verses that they will memorize in French over the course of the year

History/Geography: In history this month, students will begin a unit titled *Wars of the World, 1914-1945*. Our first topic of study will be World War I (WWI) or the "Great War." At the end of this unit, students will understand:

- Five causes of WWI
- The Triple Alliance & the Triple Entente

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.

- Significant events from 1914 – 1918 on the Western, Eastern, and Mediterranean Fronts
- Trench warfare
- Role of significant people in the war, including: Archduke Francis Ferdinand, Winston Churchill, Vladimir Lenin, Woodrow Wilson, and T.E. Lawrence
- The aftermath of WWI and the Treaty of Versailles

Mathematics: In math, we see God's majesty in the intricate workings of mathematical principles that govern our world. Students will begin this year by studying exponents. They will explore the following:

- Products and quotients of powers
- Power of a power
- Zero and negative powers
- Real world problems with squares and cubes

Science: Science provides us with unique ways of seeing God's creative presence in the world. Students will learn how to effectively engage in issues and how to perceive God's fingerprints in creation. Students will start the year off by studying the fundamental building blocks of our world, namely, matter and energy. They will examine the following:

- What is matter and energy
- Atoms and their structures
- History of discoveries

Visual Arts: Students will begin the year by creating their own art portfolios to collect and display their artwork. The class will learn the element and principles of design throughout the year, beginning with colour and shape. Students will:

- Review colour theory from past years with an emphasis on complimentary and analogous colour ranges
- Examine the use of colour in the portrait work of the Modern Masters with a focus on the portrait of Dora Maar
- Blend colours using techniques learned in class and blend analogous colours in their own self portrait
- Study the shapes of the face, and use simplified shapes to create a portrait inspired by Picasso

Music: In the Grade 8 music class, students will learn how to play the ukulele! Why ukulele? This versatile instrument has a mellow tone, it can play both melody and harmony, it is easy to learn, you can sing and play at the same time, and kids love it! We will use the ukulele to teach music literacy and ensemble playing as well as ear training. This month will consist mostly of review and preparation for more complex musical techniques and theories in the coming months. Students will:

- Review solfege scale in major and minor; stick notation of whole, half, quarter, eighth notes, sixteenth notes and rests; sharps, flats, and key signatures up to two sharps/flats; time signatures (2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8); musical staff: treble clef and notes from C4 to G5
- Practise unison and part singing in solfege; canons
- Echo short rhythms and solfege patterns
- Define terms: forte, piano, crescendo, decrescendo, ritardando, accelerando
- Review the sections of the orchestra
- Learn about Ludwig van Beethoven and listen to *Symphony No. 5, Movement 1*
- Develop ukulele skills

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 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.