

November 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



Grade 1  
Miss Melissa Vecchiarelli  
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*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, 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 November, Grade 1 students will continue to work their way through the book of Genesis, memorizing Genesis 1 up to verse 27. Topics covered this month include:

- The Tower of Babel
- The unification of Upper and Lower Egypt
- The Old Kingdom in Egypt
- The First Intermediate Period in Egypt
- The Call of Abram

**Literature, Vocabulary, and Reading Fluency:** Through participating in reading groups, students will build and refine phonics skills, oral reading fluency, and reading comprehension. In the month of November, literature study will focus on poetry, including Remembrance Day poems. Students will also read and discuss the short stories *The Little House* and *The Napping House* and enjoy listening to *Charlotte's Web* and James Herriot's *Treasury for Children* read aloud by the teacher. Students will:

- Develop listening skills
- Identify author, character, setting, and plot
- Read clearly with expression and observe punctuation marks
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Predict the story outcome
- Identify characters, setting, problem, outcome, and lesson of the story, highlighting biblical application
- Sequence the events of a story and retell the story in his/her own words
- Write about the story
- Recognize, write, and illustrate the beginning, middle and end of the story
- Relate story events to personal experiences
- Become familiar with the different facets that make up a poem – rhyming words, beat, rhythm, and imagery

**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:

- Learn and practice the following lower-case letters in cursive: *l, j, p, r, s, t, u, w*
- Read, spell, and know the sounds of the following multi letter phonograms: *sh, th, oo, er, ee, oy, oi, ch, ow, ou, ay, ai, ea, or, ui*
- Continue learning weekly spelling list words

**Writing and Grammar:** In the month of November, students will continue to learn about sentences. Students will:

- Know and understand the differences between telling, asking, and exclamatory sentences
- Make up their own telling, asking, and exclamatory sentences using their spelling words
- Learn and use the conjunctions *and, or, but*
- Learn and use the prepositions *to, from, before, after*
- Learn about nouns, and the difference between proper and common nouns

## 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.

**Latin:** Students will learn and spend time each day reviewing greeting words and begin a unit titled "How are you?" Songs and chants help children learn Latin in an enjoyable and engaging way. Students will learn multiple responses to the question, "How are you?".

**Mathematics:** Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalcuLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. This month, students will:

- Complete a unit titled "Addition Facts to 10" where they will learn different ways to add then apply their knowledge to create their own addition word problems
- Begin a unit titled "Subtraction Facts to 10" where students will explore different ways to subtract numbers, create their own subtraction word problems, and make fact families

**Science:** Students will continue to explore matter in our world. Through many hands-on science experiments and observations, students will use the scientific method to explore:

- Solids and liquids
- How solids and liquids feel
- How solids can be measured

**Visual Arts:** Students will continue to explore principles of design such as repetition and unity. Grade 1 students will add to their understanding of ancient art techniques and art forms by making their own pinch pots. Visual arts projects and topics for this month include:

- Repetition of shapes and lines to create balanced works of art
- Pottery from ancient cultures around the world

**Music:** In music class, students will build on their knowledge of Orff technique and singing. They will also review music notation and the orchestra and be introduced to ballet. Lessons will include:

- Mallet technique
- Simple borduns on Orff instruments
- Vocal ostinatos
- S-L-M-R-D
- Stick notation
- Christmas repertoire
- Music notation: review rhythm and C4-G5
- Orchestra: review sections and conducting
- Genre: Ballet - The Nutcracker

**Physical Education:** In gym, students will learn how to play the game scoops. Specific skills will include:

- Passing and catching a ball using one and two hands
- Listening and following directions to learn and play a new game

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

## Upcoming Events

November 3 & 17 – Pizza Lunch

November 8 – Westminster Classical Academy Teachers Visit Our Classes

November 10 – Remembrance Day Chapel – Families invited to attend

November 24 – Term 1 Reports Go Home

November 30 – Parent Teacher Interview Night

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