

October 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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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 October, Grade 1 students will continue to work their way through the book of Genesis, memorizing Genesis 1 up to verse 21. Topics covered this month include:

- The Flood
- The Tower of Babel
- The Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt
- The Old Kingdom in Egypt
- The First Intermediate Period in Egypt

Literature and Vocabulary: In the month of October, students will spend time reading and discussing stories such as *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Owl Moon*. For each story, students will focus on:

- Developing appropriate listening skills
- Identifying the main characters, setting, and lesson of the story
- Predicting the story outcome
- Writing about the story
- Recognizing, writing, and illustrating the beginning, middle and end of the story

Reading Fluency: Now that Grade 1 students have been assessed, the month of October will focus on reading groups as well as individualized reading instruction. Through participating in reading groups, students will build and refine oral reading fluency and reading comprehension skills. Students will:

- Apply phonics skills to reading selections
- Read clearly with expression while 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:

- Learn and practice the following lower-case letters in cursive: *qu, e, l, b, f, h, k, i, j*
- Recite all 26 single letter phonograms and write them from dictation
- Read, spell, and know the sounds of the following multi letter phonograms: *sh, th, oo, er, ee, oy, oi, ch, ow, ou*

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

- Demonstrate proper letter formation using correct posture, paper position, pencil grip and pressure
- Write imperative sentences
- Write exclamatory sentences
- Learn and use the conjunctions and, or, but
- Learn and use the prepositions to, from, before, after

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 "Making Friends." Songs and chants help children learn Latin in an enjoyable and engaging way. Students will learn words about:

- Friends
- People
- Family Members

Mathematics: Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalcuLadder math drill program. Student progress through this program on an individual basis. For the month of October, students will begin unit two titled "Number Bonds". In this unit, students will learn to:

- Investigate number bonds using various manipulatives
- Analyze parts and whole

Science: This month, students will continue with our unit on structures and investigate different materials. Through hands on experiences students will explore:

- Building structures
- The properties of different materials
- How material's uses and properties can be changed through manipulating, cooling and heating

Visual Arts: Students will continue to use line and shape as the building blocks for their art work as well as learn about the principle of design with a focus on repetition. Grade 1 students will examine ancient works of pottery and artifacts for repeated shapes and symbols. Visual arts projects and topics for this month include:

- The completion of animal paintings using shapes and patterning
- Shapes used throughout different ancient cultures and art forms created by Egyptian, Greek, and Mesopotamian artists

Music: In music class, the Grade 1 class will cover more of the foundations of music making such as:

- Rhythmic and melodic ostinatos
- Major and minor tonalities
- Solfege
- Music Notation: staff, quarter note, half note, quarter rest
- Note Names: treble clef A5-G5
- Orchestra: conductor
- Introduction to opera

Physical Education: Students will develop and practice the skills necessary to play the fun, friendly, and competitive game of handball. Specific skills to be learned include:

- Passing and catching a ball underhand
- Passing and catching a ball overhand
- Godly sportsmanship

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

Upcoming Events

October 4th – Parent Volunteer Info Session – 2:30 p.m.

October 5th – Exordium, Pizza Lunch & Curriculum Night

October 6th – PA Day – No School

October 9th – Thanksgiving Day – No School

October 12th – ACSI's World Concerns Day Conference (Gr. 7/8) - Philopateer

Christian College, Mississauga

October 19th – Cross Country (Gr. 3+) – Dagmar

October 20th – Pizza Lunch

October 26th – AMICA Visit (Gr. 1/2) & Walk Through History Day

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