

November 2017

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grade 2 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco  
Teacher

Grade 2



Grade 2  
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*Grade 2 students are actively engaged in building 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 2 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 continue to build and refine phonics skills, oral reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Each month, students will memorize a poem and complete a novel study. For the month of November, students will study the poem "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae. They will also complete a novel study on the book *Flat Stanley: The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery* by Jeff Brown. While studying these works, specific attention will be given to the following objectives:

- Describe the use of rhyme, rhythm and sensory images used in poetry
- Identify who is telling the story or providing information in a text
- Demonstrate comprehension and draw inferences from the text
- Discuss vocabulary drawn from the text
- Retell a story using narrative language to describe characters, setting, and the plot of the story in proper sequence
- Relate story details to personal experiences
- Distinguish the following genres of literature: poetry, nonfiction, fiction

**Spelling and Penmanship:** Spelling and penmanship will be learned together using the *Spell to Write and Read* and the *Cursive First* programs. Students will continue to practice reading and writing phonograms each day. Students will be introduced to the following phonograms:

- igh, ie, dge, wr, ti, ci, si, tch, eigh, ei, ey, ough

**Grammar:** During the month of November, Grade 2 students will be practicing the proper use of verbs. Specific lessons will include:

- Action verbs
- Verbs in the present and past tenses
- *Has* and *Have*, *Saw* and *Seen*, *Ate* and *Eaten*, *Gave* and *Given*, *Am*, *Is*, *Are*, *Was*, and *Were*
- Helping verbs
- Verbs that tell what is happening now
- Verbs that tell what will happen
- Using vivid verbs
- Adverbs

**Writing:** This month, Grade 2 students will use the writing process to compose a friendly letter. Lessons will include:

- What is a friendly letter?
- Parts of a friendly letter

## Grade 2 – 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.

- Putting a friendly letter together
- Prewriting, drafting, and editing
- Proofreading and publishing
- Addressing an envelope

**Latin:** In Latin this month, Grade 2 students will review the following types of words:

- Classroom items
- Household items
- Classroom commands

**Mathematics:** Grade 2 students begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalculLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. This month, students will conclude learning how to use bar models to complete addition and subtraction questions. Students will then begin a chapter in which they will be introduced to multiplication and division. Students will learn:

- How to multiply
- How to divide
- How to complete real-world multiplication and division problems

**Science:** Students will continue to explore matter in our world. Through many hand-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 2 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.