

October 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.



Mrs. Di Marco  
Teacher  
Grade 2



Grade 2

Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

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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 October, Grade 2 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:** Each month, students will memorize a poem and complete a novel study. The poem and novel study for the month of October are listed respectively:

- "Something Told The Wild Geese" by Rachel White
- *Clara and the Bookwagon* by Nancy Smiler Levinson

**Reading Fluency:** Grade 2 students will build and refine oral reading fluency and comprehension skills. This month, students will:

- Sequence 4 to 6 events correctly
- Identify the parts of a book (front and back covers, title page, table of contents)
- Describe the use of rhyme, rhythm, and sensory images in poetry

**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 spelling rules:

- Q always needs a U
- C says /s/ before E, I, or Y
- G may say /j/ before E, I or Y
- A, E, O, U usually say /A, E, O, U/ at the end of a syllable

**Grammar:** During the month of October, Grade 2 students will study the proper usage of nouns. The skill they learn will then be applied to their everyday writing assignments. Specific lessons include:

- Proper & common nouns
- The days of the week & months of the year
- Writing dates using commas
- Abbreviations
- Initials
- Singular & plural nouns
- Irregular plural nouns
- Collective nouns
- Nouns in a series
- Singular & plural possessive nouns
- Compound words

**Writing:** In writing this month, Grade 2 students will continue to use the writing process to complete their personal narratives. Specific objectives include:

# 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.

- Understanding that a personal narrative is a true, personal story
- Understanding that a personal narrative is written in the first person and uses words such as *I, me, and my*
- Writing a personal narrative with a clear beginning, middle, and ending
- Identifying errors and revising work as necessary
- Publishing a final copy of a written work

**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 2 students 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 conclude a chapter on addition up to 1000 with and without regrouping. Students will then begin a chapter in which they will learn to subtract numbers up to 1000. Specifically, students will practice the following skills:

- Subtraction without regrouping
- Subtraction with regrouping in the ones, tens, and hundreds
- Subtraction across 0's

**Science:** This month, students will continue with our unit on structures and continue to 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 and learn about the principle of design with a focus on repetition. Grade 2 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 2 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:** During the month of October, 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 4<sup>th</sup> – Parent Volunteer Info Session – 2:30 p.m.

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Exordium, Pizza Lunch & Curriculum Night

October 6<sup>th</sup> – PA Day – No School

October 9<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day – No School

October 12<sup>th</sup> – ACSI's World Concerns Day Conference (Gr. 7/8) - Philopateer Christian College, Mississauga

October 19<sup>th</sup> – Cross Country (Gr. 3+) – Dagmar

October 20<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Lunch

October 26<sup>th</sup> – 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.