

November 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 4

Mrs. Cheryl Smith

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Cheryl first encountered classical education while working with disadvantaged students in the inner city of Rochester, New York. She saw first-hand the benefits of teaching a curriculum rich in content that fostered a “back-to-basics” approach, building a strong foundation as well as enhancing learning in the classroom. Cheryl has completed her teaching certificate and master’s degree. Her teaching experiences have run the gamut of preschool to secondary English. In addition, Cheryl has developed and directed a Fine Arts program for Grades 3 to 6 at her local church, producing twelve musicals. In June 2011, she and her family moved to Newmarket. Cheryl is married to Barry and they have two adult children. She is passionate about teaching and is excited to be returning to the classroom full-time.



Cheryl Smith
Teacher

Grade 3 and
Grade 4

Grade 4 students are actively engaged in building foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with reading, discussion, singing, 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.

Christian Education: Israel failed to obey God after Joshua’s death. Consequently, God used Israel’s enemies and the judges to preserve Israel. Students will memorize Psalm 135:1-21. Students will discuss the triumphs, sins, and lessons of the following judges:

- Othniel
- Ehud
- Deborah, Barak, and Joel
- Gideon
- Abimelech
- Jephthah
- Samson

Literature: Following the completion of the novel *The Minstrel in the Tower* by Gloria Skurzynski, students will complete a research project on a topic associated with the time period in which the story takes place - the Middle Ages. This project will include the following tasks:

- Gather information about a selected topic from the teacher-generated list
- Prepare an oral report (with use of index cards)
- Present the project to the class

Writing and Penmanship: Students will complete the practice sheets from the *Cursive First* program this month. Once completed, all written assignments must be completed in cursive. Students will continue to focus on writing narratives. Topics will include:

- Writing narratives about other people: first-person biographies based on history
- Writing a letter to a historical figure
- Writing narratives for literature: story summary
- Investigating plot in traditional stories

Spelling and Grammar: As students study spelling and grammar, they develop a greater awareness of how the English language is structured and apply their skills to writing across the curriculum. This month, students will continue to review the multi-letter phonograms associated with their weekly lists of 20 words. They will:

- Analyze their weekly spelling words
- Use spelling words in well-constructed sentences
- Learn the spelling rules associated with their weekly word-lists
- Use correct punctuation and capitalization when writing complete sentences
- Properly use possessive nouns
- Properly punctuate and use contractions

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek vocabulary. From *Song School Latin 2*, students will learn the numbers 1-10 in Latin and the accompanying song. Students will add the following Greek root words and Latin prefixes and verbs, along with a number of derivatives, to their English vocabulary card collection:

- **sonus**, Latin—sound (derivatives: sonic, sonar, consonant)
- **skopeo**, Greek—see, look, consider, examine (derivatives: microscope, telescope, kaleidoscope)
- **video/visum**, Latin—see (derivatives: television, video, evidence)
- **logos**, Greek—word, study derivatives: logic, geology, biology)
- **nomen, nominis**, Latin—name (derivatives: nominate, nomination, denomination)
- **pro**, Latin—for, before, forward, in place of (derivatives: profess, problem, proceed)
- **prae**, Latin—before, in front of (derivatives: predict, precaution, prefer)

Grade 4 – 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.

French: In French this month, students will begin to read the play *La Poule Maboule*, answer questions about the play, and learn new gestured vocabulary. Students will:

- Continue to learn new gestures and French vocabulary each class
- Read the script of the play in small groups and independently
- Answer questions orally and in writing about the play using French vocabulary
- Continue to work towards speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts

History: The focus of history this year is The Middle Ages from the collapse of the Western Roman Empire to the Fall of Constantinople. Following a brief look at the Islamic invasion in Spain and Africa, students will focus their attention on the Kingdom of the Franks and the Viking invasions. Topics will include:

- Clovis, the Ex-Barbarian
- Four Tribes, One Empire
- Charles the Hammer
- The Greatest King: Charlemagne
- The Viking Invasion
- Eric the Red and Eric's Son
- The Norse Gods

Mathematics: Working at their own pace, students will complete their study of whole number multiplication and division before moving on to chapter 4 - *Tables and Line Graphs*. Lesson titles include:

- Making and Interpreting a Table
- Using a Table
- Line Graphs

Science: This month, students will explore the intricacy and wonder of God's handiwork as they continue investigating two organ systems:

- The Digestive System
- The Urinary System

Visual Arts: Students will continue their exploration of mosaics and symmetry by designing their own mosaics. At the end of the month, students will investigate tapestries from the Middle Ages and learn about art that tells stories. Visual arts projects and topics for this month include:

- Symmetrical and asymmetrical designs using shapes and patterns
- Designing and creating a mosaic of their own
- Weaving stories: The Bayeux Tapestry

Music: In music class, students will review music notation rhythmically, with solfege, and with note names. They will learn more musical terms, instruments, and hear famous classical music. They will also begin preparing for the Christmas concert in December. Lessons will include:

- Treble clef staff: directional reading with solfege or note names
- 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 meters
- Legato and staccato
- Christmas repertoire
- Singing in Canon
- Orchestra: woodwinds and percussion
- Listening: *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*

Physical Education: This month, students will learn about and play the game of volleyball. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Stance and form
- Bumping
- Setting
- Serving

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.