

October 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:** Students will review the Biblical events from Creation to The Fall, summarizing the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Joshua. The memory work for this unit is Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12. Each of these people had a relationship with God that led to trust and obedience to His will. Lesson titles include:

- Creation and the Fall
- Abraham and God’s Covenant
- Isaac and Jacob
- Moses, Passover, Exodus
- Joshua

**Literature:** In literature this month, the class will begin a novel study of the book *The Minstrel in the Tower* by Gloria Skurzynski. This study will focus on the following skills:

- Vocabulary activities related to the story
- Comprehension of the text
- Literary analysis and terminology questions designed to develop students’ understanding of writing technique and how to use it
- Critical analysis questions designed to help students consider and analyze the intellectual, moral, and spiritual issues in the stories and weigh them with reference to scripture

**Writing and Penmanship:** Students will continue to work at improving their handwriting skills with practice sheets from the *Cursive First* program. Along with responding to questions about the novel, students will continue writing narratives. Topics will include:

- Writing narratives about their own experiences: autobiographical incidents
- Writing narratives about other people: first-person biographies
- Writing narratives about other people: first-person biographies based on history
- Writing a letter to a historical figure

**Spelling and Grammar:** Having been introduced to the 26 single phonograms of the *Spell to Write to Read* programme, students will begin to review the multi-letter phonograms and the spelling rules associated with the weekly lists of 20 words. Students will:

- Analyze their weekly spelling words
- Use spelling words in well-constructed sentences
- Learn spelling words associated with their weekly lists
- Use correct punctuation and capitalization when writing complete sentences
- Recognize singular and plural nouns

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will continue to add Greek root words and some Latin prefixes and verbs, along with their derivatives, to their English vocabulary card collection. Some of the words and their derivatives for this month are:

- **phobos**, Greek - fear (derivatives: phobia, claustrophobia, zoophobia)
- **syn**, Greek - with, together (derivatives: sympathy, symphony, synchronize)
- **thesis**, Greek – put, place, position (derivatives: thesis, theme, parenthesis)
- **kinesis**, Greek – movement (derivatives: kinetic, kinesiology, \*cinema)
- **phone**, Greek – sound (derivatives: phonograph, phonogram, microphone)
- **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)

**French:** In French this month, students will continue with the AIM (Accelerated Integrated Methodology) program by learning new gestured vocabulary and practicing songs in French. Students will:

- Continue to practice songs for entering and exiting the class
- Continue to learn new gestures and French vocabulary
- Continue to learn the script for the play *La Poule Maboule*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Begin practicing and memorizing the play
- Work towards speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts

## 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.

**History:** In history this month, students will study the Byzantine empire before completing their first unit assessment. Then, they will turn their focus to Mohammed and the rise of Islam. Topics will include:

- Mohammed's Vision
- The Koran
- The Fight for Mecca
- The Spread of Islam
- The City of Baghdad

**Mathematics:** This month in mathematics, students will learn whole number multiplication and division. Students will use place value to multiply and divide multi-digit numbers as well as use estimation to check the reasonableness of an answer. Lesson titles include:

- Multiplying by a 1-Digit Number
- Multiplying by a 2-Digit Number
- Modeling Division by Regrouping
- Dividing by a 1-Digit Number
- Real-World Problems: Multiplication and Division

**Science:** Following an assessment on scientific investigations, students will focus on investigating organ systems, namely, the digestive system and urinary system. Lesson titles include:

- What Do Organ Systems Do?
- How Does the Digestive System Work?
- How Can I Care for My Digestive System?
- How Does the Urinary System Work?
- How Can I Care for my Urinary System?
- How Can I Prevent Injury to My Organs?

**Visual Arts:** Students will demonstrate their understanding of colour theory by completing their stained-glass window designs. Grade 4 students will expand their knowledge of art from the middle ages by looking at mosaics from across Europe. Students will learn about symmetrical and asymmetrical designs in floor and wall mosaics created by Byzantine artists. Visual arts projects and topics for this month include:

- The completion of stained glass window designs by mixing primary colours to create secondary and tertiary colours
- Mosaic and tile work: Byzantine and European mosaics in the middle ages
- Symmetrical and asymmetrical designs using shapes and patterns
- Designing and creating a mosaic of their own

**Music:** This month, the Grade 4 class will take the next steps in learning part singing, note reading, and Orff technique. We will cover:

- Singing in canon
- Making conscious low So and low La
- Mallet technique
- Musical staff: meter, bar lines, repeat sign
- Recognize and sing short melodies on the treble clef staff
- Steps and skips on the treble clef staff using solfege
- Orchestra: review string family and percussion
- Listening: Borodin String *Quartet no. 2, Scherzo*

**Physical Education:** In October, students will practice and train for the cross-country meet which takes place this month. They will continue to do the following while training:

- Strive to increase distance run
- Build endurance
- Learn to manage hills
- Understand and apply pacing

*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.