

November 2017

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin



Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to the grammar stage of classical education's trivium. Melissa completed her teaching certification and Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and she currently serves as the Grade 7/8 teacher at Innova Academy. When she's not teaching, or involved with church, Melissa enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two boys. You can usually find them at a hockey rink, playing catch, or doing something active together.



Melissa Gazmin
Teacher

Grade 7 and
Grade 8

Grade 8 students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to make meaningful connections and critically analyze ideas. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and lead students deepen their understanding of God's purpose for His creation and their role in His redemptive plan.

Christian Education / Logic: Through discussion, reading, and film, students will continue to examine the tenets of the Christian worldview and how they compare to the doctrines of the leading non-Christian worldviews of our day. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life. As we apply logical thinking to our Christian faith, students will be exposed to the following reasoning lesson:

- A discussion, a disagreement, an argument, and a fight
- When it is foolish to argue
- Fact, inference, or opinion
- Finding the premises and conclusion
- How to list reasons why you believe something
- How to defeat your own argument
- When not to use logic

Bible Memorization: Throughout the year, Grade 8 students will be memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. By the end of November, students should be able to recite the entire first chapter and verses 1-17 in chapter 2. Major points in chapter two include:

- The Sin of Partiality
- Faith without works is dead

Literature: During the month of November, students will begin to read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Corrie ten Boom's classic *The Hiding Place*. Corrie ten Boom became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century. In World War II she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis, and for their work they were tested in the infamous Nazi death camps. Only Corrie among her family survived to tell the story of how faith ultimately triumphs over evil.

Writing: Students will begin the month by completing their literary essays in response to Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Students will use the writing process to successfully meet the following criteria in their essays:

- Writing in present tense
- Supporting points with relevant quotes from the text
- Writing in the third person
- Clearly identifying main points in the introduction of the essay
- Using quotation marks properly
- Linking all paragraphs to the main points identified in the introduction
- Maintaining a formal tone throughout the essay

Grammar: This month, students will continue to focus on correct punctuation as they apply what they learn to their literary essays. Specific lessons in grammar will include:

- Punctuation: periods & commas; exclamation points, question marks, semi-colons, & colons; quotation marks & italics; apostrophes, hyphens, and dashes

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will be assessed of their knowledge of the first ten Latin and Greek words and their derivatives before expanding their vocabulary with the following:

- Omnis (L): omnipotence, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscience, omniscient, omnivorous, omnibus, omnidirectional
- Amphi (G): amphitheater, amphibian, amphora, amphoric sound, amphigory
- Ambi (L): ambidextrous, ambivalent, ambiguous, ambience, ambisinister
- Eu (G): eulogy, euphony, euphoria, evangelist, eugenics, euphemism
- Malus (L): malady, malediction, malefactor, dismal, malaria, malevolent, malice, malign, malapropism

Grade 8 – The Logic Stage

The strong knowledge base established in the grammar school provides a solid foundation as students enter the logic school. As perspective widens, students start to make meaningful connections across the curriculum. Students show more independence in their learning and establish systems in self-regulation and personal study skills. Shaping students' habits of heart, mind, and soul is a key focus as students deepen their understanding of God's purpose for his creation and their role in his redemptive plan. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to critically analyze ideas and speak to issues in light of God's purposes.

French: In French this month, students will learn and review gestured vocabulary, answer questions about the play, and sing songs in French. Students will:

- Begin memorizing and practicing the play *Louis la grenouille*
- Complete comprehension activities related to the play and review how to answer simple questions in French
- Practice vocabulary and gestures at home using the online portal
- Continue to memorize Philippians 4:6

History/Geography: In history this month, students will continue our unit on the Wars of the World, 1914-1945. This month's topics include:

- The Rise of Adolf Hitler
- The Holocaust: From Afar
- The Holocaust: Up Close
- The Spanish Civil War and the Rise of Francisco Franco
- World War II: Background

Mathematics: This month, students will use algebraic linear equations to:

- Solve equations with two variables
- Graph the relationships
- Identify and solve their systems

Science: Grade 8 students have learned a lot about energy, focusing on what it is and where it is found. This month, students will study energy in the following areas:

- The Law of Conservation of Energy
- Mass-energy equivalence ($E=mc^2$)
- Heat and heat transfer
- Work

Visual Arts: Students will complete a project for Remembrance Day based on the themes of patriotism and the symbolism of flags as seen in Romantic paintings. Students will compare the works of Romantic artists to Realist artists looking specifically at the still life paintings of William Harnett. Visual arts projects and topics for this month include:

- Symbolism and patriotism in Romantic artworks
- One-point perspective and landscape art
- Understanding foreground, middle ground, and background
- Still life paintings that trick the eye due to realism

Music: In music class, students will begin preparing both choral and ukulele repertoire for the Christmas concert in December. They will also memorize their key signatures, learn new terms, and be exposed to Baroque music and composers. Lessons will include:

- Key signatures: up to seven sharps/flats
- Terms: grave, moderato, prestissimo, vivace
- Christmas repertoire
- Ukulele
- Review chords and cadences
- Musical Time Periods: Baroque
- Composers: Handel, Bach, Vivaldi
- Listening: Bach Cantata, Handel's Messiah, Vivaldi Violin Concerto

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.