

October 2017

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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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 to 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 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. This month's "keys to understanding" will include:

- Key Question: What about God? (Does God exist and what is God like?)
- Key Ideas: God has revealed Himself in the created universe and His revealed words, the Bible.
- Key Terms: theology, atheism, theism, pantheism, general revelation, causal argument, design argument, mind argument, moral argument, special revelation, trinitarianism, monotheism, deism
- Key Verse: Genesis 1:1

**Bible Memorization:** Throughout the year Grade 8 students will be memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. By the end of October, students should be able to recite the entire first chapter. Major points in chapter one include:

- Testing of Your Faith
- Hearing and Doing the Word

**Literature:** Students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Orwell's allegory of the Soviet revolution gives us a vivid gallery of characters and a fable that conveys the truth about how we are manipulated through language and the impossibility of finding heaven on earth. Specific objectives to be met include:

- Understanding allegory through Aesop's Fables
- Understanding satire through political cartoons
- Understanding the historical context of *Animal Farm* and the Russian revolution
- Understanding the role propaganda posters play during times of conflict
- Identifying narrative voice and perspective
- Developing theme posters to show overall understanding of *Animal Farm*
- Writing a literary essay in response to *Animal Farm*

**Writing:** During the month of October, students will complete and publish the personal narratives they started last month. In response to Orwell's *Animal Farm*, students will then begin composing their first literary essays. Specific lessons will include:

- Writing in the 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
- Using discourse markers properly
- Linking all paragraphs to the main points identified in the introduction
- Maintaining a formal tone throughout the essay

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

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

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Grade 8 students will begin learning both Latin and Greek root words with our new *English from the Roots Up* curriculum. This month, students will learn words derived from the following six roots:

- Caballus (Latin): *cavalry, cheval, chivalry, caballo, cavallo, chevalet, cavalcade, Chevalier (Maruice)*
- Hippos (Greek): *hippopotamus, hippodrome, hippocampus, hippology, hippophile, Eohippus, hippiatric, Hippotigris*
- Porcus (Latin): *pork, porcine, porcupine, porpoise, pork barrel, porker, "pork", porcelain*
- Ornis/Ornithos (Greek): *ornithology, ornithivorous, ornithopterous, ornithotrophe, ornithocephalic, ornithopter, ornithophile, ornithomancy*

## 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.

- Avis (Latin): *aviary, aviate, aviation, aviator, avian, aviculture*
- Grex/Gregis (Latin): *gregarious, egregious, congregate, congregation, segregate, aggregate*

**French:** In French this month, students will learn and review gestured vocabulary, learn songs in French, and practice the play *Louis la grenouille*. Students will:

- Memorize Philippians 4:6 in French
- Become accustomed to speaking exclusively in French, with fewer teacher prompts
- Begin practicing and memorizing the play *Louis la grenouille*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play

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

- Karl Marx and the *Communist Manifesto* (background information)
- Vladimir Lenin forms the U.S.S.R.
- The Irish Civil War
- Benito Mussolini and the Rise of Fascism
- Joseph Stalin: "Man of Steel"
- The Rise of Adolf Hitler
- The Holocaust from Afar

**Mathematics:** Students will begin the month learning the scientific notation and how it will be applied this year in science and math. They will then start algebraic linear equations learning to:

- Solve an equation with a single variable
- Identify the possible solutions
- Understand and solve equations with two variables

**Science:** This month, students will examine one of the basic substances in the universe, energy, by answering the following questions:

- What is it?
- Where is it found?
- How can we harness it for our good?

**Visual Arts:** Students will learn about the patriotism and emotion captured by painters during the Romantic movement. Grade 8 students will enjoy examining famous Romantic paintings for symbols and icons. Students will explore the use of patriotic symbols like flags in the art work of Eugene Delacroix and Emanuel Leutze. Visual arts projects and topics for this month include:

- The completion of Cubism inspired portraits
- Shapes, symbols and icons in the works of Romantic artists

**Music:** Grade 8 students will continue developing their music skills on the ukulele and in choir, practicing the following:

- Two-part singing in solfege
- Singing in canon
- Terms: andante, allegro, presto, largo
- Recognition of chords and cadences
- History: romantic era of music
- Composers: Chopin, Schumann, Liszt
- Listening: "Raindrop" *Prelude* (Chopin), *Liebesträume* (Liszt), *Concerto no. 1* (Schumann)

**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.