

December 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.



Heidi 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 December, Grade 2 students will continue to work their way through the book of Genesis, completing their memorization of Genesis 1. As Christmas approaches, we will wonder at God's greatest gift, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Topics covered this month include:

- The birth and sacrifice of Isaac
- The Middle Kingdom in Egypt
- The birth of Jesus

Literature, Vocabulary and Reading Fluency: Through participating in reading groups, students will continue to build and refine phonics skills, oral reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Each month, students will memorize a poem and complete a novel study. For the month of December, students will memorize and study the poem "Twas the Evening of Christmas" by Glenys Nellist. They will also complete a novel study on the book *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie. While studying these works, specific attention will be given to the following objectives:

- Identify temporal words that link and sequence events, i.e., *first, next, then, etc.*
- Identify words that link ideas, i.e., *for example, also, in addition*
- Demonstrate comprehension and draw inferences from the text
- Discuss vocabulary drawn from the text
- Retell a story using narrative language to describe characters, setting, and the plot of the story in proper sequence
- Relate story details to personal experiences
- Distinguish the following genres of literature: poetry, nonfiction, fiction

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. This month, students will:

- Review the following phonograms: *ow, ou, ay, ai, ea, or, ui, ng, ar, wh, aw, au, c*
- Continue to learn weekly spelling words and apply them to writing across the curriculum

Grammar: During the month of December, Grade 2 students will continue practicing the proper use of verbs. Lessons include:

- Has and have, saw and seen, ate and eaten, gave and given, am, is, are, was, and were
- Helping verbs
- Verbs that tell what is happening now
- Verbs that tell what will happen
- Using vivid verbs
- Adverbs

Writing: This month, Grade 2 students will use the writing process to compose a *How-to Article*. Lessons include:

- What is a how-to article
- Order in a how-to article
- Steps in a how-to article
- Planning and writing a how-to article

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.

Music: Students are very busy preparing for their Christmas concerts. This month, students will:

- Polish Christmas repertoire
- Participate in activities to develop choral skills
- Participate in activities to develop rhythmic skill

Latin: In Latin this month, Grade 2 students will review the following types of vocabulary words:

- Classroom commands
- Manners
- Words relating to Christmas

Mathematics: Grade 2 students begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalcuLadder math drill program. Each math class also begins with students singing math skip counting songs. The Grade 2 students have memorized skip counting by 2's through 11's. This month, students will begin memorizing multiplication facts. Since the students know the skip counting patterns, they are well prepared for memorizing multiplication facts. During the month of December, students will learn to:

- Multiply by 2 using skip counting and dot paper
- Multiply by 5 using skip counting and dot paper
- Multiply by 10 using skip counting and dot paper
- Divide using multiplication facts

Science: This month, students will continue to learn about matter. Through various hands on experiments, students will explore:

- Surface tension and how it affects liquids
- The three forms of water
- Evaporation
- Melting, freezing, and evaporating liquids
- Types of gases

Visual Arts: Students will examine shapes and patterns in pottery and artifacts from Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece. Visual arts projects and topics for this month include:

- Shapes and patterns used throughout art history focusing on Egyptian, Greek, and Mesopotamian artifacts
- Primary and secondary colours
- Techniques for mixing colours with different mediums

Physical Education: In gym, students will learn how to play a successful game of dodgeball. We will also discuss germs and the steps we can take to help protect ourselves and others from catching a cold. Specific skills/lessons include:

- Throwing and catching a dodgeball
- Aiming before throwing
- Proper hand washing
- Our body's defenses against germs
- Healthy habits (sleeping, eating, washing, etc.)

Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.

Upcoming Events

December 1 & 15 – Pizza Lunch

December 7 – Black Creek Pioneer Village Field Trip – All Grades

December 8 - Exordium

December 15 – Parent Morning – At the Fischers'

December 19 – AMICA Christmas Performance

December 21 – Innova Christmas Concert – Main Sanctuary

December 22 – Skating – Riverwalk Commons; noon dismissal at Riverwalk Commons

December 30 – Winter Social - NTR

December 25–January 5 – Christmas Break; classes resume January 8

Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study.