

December 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 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 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. During the month of December, students will focus on the following "keys to understanding":

- Key question: What is true and how do we know?
- Key idea: The nature of reality is foundational to every worldview
- Key terms: philosophy, truth, epistemology, science, empiricism, metaphysics, materialism, spiritualism, miracle
- Key verses: 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Colossians 2:8

Bible Memorization: Throughout the year, Grade 8 students will be memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. By the end of December, students should be able to recite the entire first chapter and verses 1-26 in chapter two. Major points in chapter two include:

- Hearing and doing the Word
- Faith without works is dead

Literature: During the month of December, students will continue to read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Corrie ten Boom's classic *The Hiding Place*. Focus in literature will then turn to comparing and contrasting several Christmas poems and short stories. Comparisons will include:

- "The Three Kings" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and "The Journey of the Magi" by T.S. Eliot
- "Christmas Trees" by Robert Frost and "Little Tree" by E.E. Cummings
- "A Christmas Prayer (from the trenches)" by Cyril Winterbotham and "The Little Match Girl" by Hans Christian Andersen

Writing: This month's writing focus is on composing a successful business letter. A business letter is a formal letter written for a specific purpose. The tone of a good business letter is respectful and matches the purpose for which the letter was written. Students will learn and apply the following as they write a strong and persuasive business letter:

- An introduction with a clearly stated purpose
- A body with detailed information tailored to the recipient
- A conclusion that restates the purpose and offers a sense of resolution
- A professional tone, avoiding the use of clipped words
- Adjective and adverb clauses to make sentences complete and specific
- Natural flow from one sentence to the next
- Correct business-letter format

Grammar: This month, grammar will focus on the correct use of verbs. Specific lessons will include:

- Principal parts of verbs
- Transitive and intransitive verbs
- Troublesome verbs
- Linking verbs
- Active and passive voices
- Simple, progressive, and perfect tenses
- Agreement of subject and verb

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will continue to learn the following Latin and Greek words and their derivatives:

- Omnis (L): omnipotence, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscience, omniscient, omnivorous, omnibus, omnidirectional
- Amphi (G): amphitheater, amphibian, amphora, amphoteric sound, amphigory
- Ambi (L): ambidextrous, ambivalent, ambiguous, ambience, ambisister
- 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 songs and practice vocabulary by participating in classroom activities. Students will:

- Memorize 1 John 3:1
- Continue rehearsing, memorizing, and acting out the play *Louis la grenouille*
- Work towards answering questions about the play orally and in writing
- Continue to practice gestures and vocabulary at home using the online portal and vocabulary cards
- Participate in activities to learn important grammar concepts

History/Geography: In history this month, students will continue a unit titled "Wars of the World, 1914-1945". More specifically, they will focus on World War II. This month's lessons will include:

- The blitzkrieg of Europe
- The Battle of Britain
- The blunders of Mussolini
- Rommel: The Desert Fox
- Germany's bold-faced invasion of the Soviet Union
- The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour
- The Battle of Stalingrad
- The invasion of Normandy ("D-Day")
- The Battle of the Bulge
- The dramatic death of Adolf Hitler
- The devastating drop of two atomic bombs

Mathematics: Students will continue to study linear equations but delve deeper into them by working with systems of linear equations. Students will learn to:

- Solve linear equations using algebra
- Solve linear equations by graphing
- Apply linear equations to real world scenarios
- Identify different types of equations

Science: This month's science study will focus on matter, including its basic components, atoms, and compounds. Students will do further investigation into the following:

- The periodic table of elements
- Compounds
- Mixtures and solutions
- Properties of matter

Visual Arts: Students will learn about the accuracy of the Realism movement examining the works of William Harnett. They will explore still life paintings that can trick the eye and design a still life composition of their own which will be the subject of a printmaking project. Visual arts topics and projects for this month include:

- Design a still life composition using simple objects
- Examine the work of Realism artists like William Harnett
- Learn printmaking techniques and investigate the work of printmaking artists

Music: Innova students are very busy preparing for their Christmas concerts. Over the next few weeks, music classes will mostly consist of rehearsals for these concerts. However, lessons will also include:

- Review of terms
- Subdividing rhythms
- Classical period listening and composer review

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

- Rules
- Dribbling
- Passing
- Shooting
- Stance

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.