

December 2017

The Month Ahead At Innova

Jessica has earned her Bachelor of Arts Honours in Contemporary studies with a Minor in Geography and Religion at Wilfrid Laurier University and has successfully completed the Nipissing Concurrent Education program. While completing her education, Jessica has had many classroom experiences that include teaching in Ecuador in the Amazon Rainforest. Jessica had never heard of classical Christian education until she heard about Innova Academy. As a new teacher graduate, she was very curious about classical Christian education and did some research. Jessica found an instant fascination with the rigours in the classical styles of teaching. Jessica continues to enjoy her teaching time at Innova Academy and is excited to influence the hearts and minds of her students. Jessica is married to Tim, loves to travel, and has a passion for music, art, and drama.



Jessica Cap
Teacher

Senior
Kindergarten

Senior Kindergarten
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Senior Kindergarten is a time of magical growth where children learn foundational knowledge and skills to develop a life-long love of learning. Students will listen to wonderful selections of classic children's literature and respond through engaging hands-on activities. We are committed to developing the whole child by providing a pleasant environment for children to take chances and explore. Above all, we strive to lead children to taste the joys of being a child of God and grow in their understanding of serving Him.

Christian Education: Kindergarten students will complete the unit begun in November exploring how God's love saved Israel. Later in the month, the focus will turn to Christmas and the events leading to the birth of Jesus Christ. Students will explore the following:

- The golden calf
- Zechariah's surprise
- Surprises for Mary and Joseph
- Bethlehem and the birth of Christ
- Shepherds
- Simeon and Anna
- The Wise Men
- Memory work: Colossians 1:1-3 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you." ESV

Language Arts: This month, Kindergarten students will listen to stories and complete activities associated with the themes of Christmas. Through various tactile activities, students will continue to develop their fine motor skills. In phonics, students will begin learning digraphs and trigraphs. They will also learn to identify rhyme and rhythm in poems. As students explore literature, they will continue to learn about story elements and discuss themes. Students will continue writing simple sentences and learn about the use of quotation marks in writing. Specific learning objectives include:

Vocabulary:

- Explore different winter, travel, and Christmas vocabulary
- Learn about basic adjectives that describe people, places and things

Literature Selections:

- *The Elves and the Shoemaker*
- *The Little Elf*
- *The Nutcracker*
- *The Snow Queen*

Phonics:

- Review short vowel sounds
- Begin digraphs: *sh, th, wh, ch*
- Beginning trigraph: *-tch*
- Ending sound: *-ck*

Latin: Students will learn Latin vocabulary put to song and chants to help with pronunciation and memorization. This month, they will learn the following vocabulary:

- Boy
- Girl
- Man
- Woman

SK – 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 / Geography: Senior Kindergarten students are traveling around the world learning about all the continents while highlighting certain cities, animals, and traditions. This month, students will learn about:

- South America
- Andes Mountains
- Animals of the mountains
- Pappas (grasslands)
- Gauchos

Mathematics: This month in mathematics, students will begin a patterning unit. Students will use a variety of math manipulatives and hands-on experiences to explore:

- Covering designs using pattern blocks
- Creating pattern block designs
- Identifying properties of pattern blocks
- Creating and reading an AB colour pattern
- Creating and reading an AABB colour pattern

Science: This month in science, students will continue exploring trees with a focus on coniferous trees. Through many hands-on experiences, students will:

- Explore different types of coniferous trees
- Learn what affects the growth of a tree
- Learn about pine needles
- Discover interesting facts about pine cones and explore why they open

Visual Arts: This month, students will finish a unit on the element of colour and begin exploring the use of symmetry in art. Through a variety of tactile art projects, students will:

- Complete an evergreen tree landscape project
- Create a symmetrical Christmas tree
- Make their own Christmas ornament

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 skills

Physical Education: Students will continue to learn skill-building activities while developing good sportsmanship and having fun. This month, skills include:

- Using scoops and balls to throw underhand and catch
- Keeping a balloon in the air
- Hitting a balloon against the wall and catching it
- Using an oversized badminton racquet to strike a balloon and oversized shuttlecock

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.