

January 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova

Melissa Vecchiarelli completed an Honours Bachelor degree in Sociology, and a Bachelor of Education from Queens' University. Melissa has a love and passion for overseas missions and education. She has had the opportunity to travel to many places all over the world, and was privileged to teach English in Thailand, and English in Zambia through Village of Hope, Africa. What Melissa finds fascinating about classical Christian education, is that children are encouraged to think critically, while being taught with a biblical view of the world. In her free time, she enjoys spending time together with her husband, serving at her church, being outside, hiking, bike riding, travelling and anything to do with art.



Melissa Vecchiarelli
Teacher

Grade 1 and
Grade 2

Grade 1
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Grade 1 students are actively engaged in learning 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 January, Grade 1 students will begin a study of the book of Psalms, focusing on memorizing Psalm 23. Topics covered this month include:

- The life of Jacob
- The life of Joseph
- The Second Intermediate Period in Egypt

Literature, Vocabulary, and Reading Fluency: Through participating in reading groups, students will build and refine phonics skills, oral reading fluency, and reading comprehension. In the month of January, literature study will focus on winter stories such as *Snowmen at Night*, as well as *Madeline and the Bad Hat*, *Dr. DeSoto* and *Little Rabbit's Lost Tooth*. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter will be this month's read-aloud.

Students will:

- Role play
- Develop listening skills
- Read clearly with expression and observe punctuation marks
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Infer and make predictions of the story outcome
- Identify author, characters, setting, and plot, as well as recognize the problem, outcome, and lesson of the story, highlighting biblical application
- Sequence the events of a story and retell the story in his/her own words
- Recognize, write, and illustrate the beginning, middle and end of the story
- Relate story events to personal experiences
- Write creatively based on the story

Spelling and Phonics and Penmanship: Spelling, phonics, and penmanship will be learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will:

- Learn and practice writing their memory verse each week in cursive
- Learn, review, read, and spell the following multi letter phonograms: *er, ir, ur, ear, wor ea, ee, ng, oo, or, ow, th, igh, ie, dge, wr*
- Continue learning 20 spelling list words each week

Writing and Grammar: In the month of January, students will:

- Creatively write 10 sentences using their weekly spelling list words
- Recognize and form compound words
- Identify and form plural nouns by adding -s
- Use commas to separate nouns in a series
- Identify verbs that show action
- Add -s to some verbs when used with a noun that names one person or one thing
- Identify that some verbs do not end in -s when used with a noun that names more than one person or thing
- Distinguish between singular and plural verb forms

Grade 1 – 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.

Latin: In January, students will be introduced to words about family members. Words learned will include:

- Pater (father)
- Mater (mother)
- Soror (sister)
- Frater (brother)
- Puella (girl)
- Puer (boy)
- Vir (man)
- Femina (woman)

Mathematics: Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalculLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. This month, students will continue and complete a unit titled "Shapes and Patterns". Students will:

- Identify plane and solid shapes in real life
- Use plane and solid shapes to identify, extend, and create patterns

This month, students will also begin a unit titled "Ordinal Numbers and Positions". Students will:

- Use ordinal numbers
- Use position words to name relative positions

Science: This month, students will begin a unit on motion. Through various hands on experiences, students will:

- Explore the meaning of "position"
- Reference objects and distance in describing position
- Investigate motion
- Experiment with paths in relation to motion

Visual Arts: Students will create pinch pots and paint them using patterns inspired by ancient artifacts.

Topics this month include:

- Primary and secondary colours
- Using shapes to create patterns
- 3-dimensional works of art
- Seals and cartouches from Ancient Egypt

Music: In January, Grade 1 students will expand their knowledge of the solfege scale, particularly the pentatonic scale. They will begin broken borduns on the Orff instruments and continue to work on their vocal technique. They will also learn a new musical genre and instrument group. Students will:

- Label verse and refrain
- Practice vocal and percussion borduns
- Learn music notation: half rest and C4-G4
- Identify the string family
- Listen to jazz: Dave Brubeck's *Take Five*

Physical Education: In the month of January, students will learn the skills and rules involved in the game of floor hockey. Specific skills will include:

- Passing a puck
- Receiving a pass
- Stick handling
- Shooting on net

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

Upcoming Events

January 8 – Classes Resume – Welcome back from Christmas break!

January 12 & 26 – Pizza Lunch

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