

January 2018

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



At Innova

Grade 2
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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 January, Grade 2 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 continue to build and refine phonics skills, oral reading fluency, and reading comprehension. During the month of January, students will complete a novel study on the book *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie (abridged). While studying this novel, specific attention will be given to the following objectives:

- 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 in proper sequence
- Relate story details to personal experiences
- Demonstrate understanding of literary language (E.g. author, illustrator, characters, setting, plot, dialogue, personification, simile, and metaphor) and use some of these terms in retelling the story and creating their own stories

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. They will also continue to learn and apply spelling rules. Students will:

- Review the following phonograms: *igh, ie, dge, wr, ti, ci, si, tch, eigh, ei, ey*
- Learn 20 spelling list words each week
- Learn spelling rules:
 - *i* before *e* except after *c*, if we say *A* and in some exceptions
 - *Sh* used at the beginning of a word at the end of a syllable, but not at the beginning of any syllable after the first one, except for the ending *-ship*
 - *ti, ci, si*: Latin spellings of *sh* used at the beginning of any syllable after the first one
 - Abbreviations use a few letters to represent a larger word

Grammar: During the month of January, Grade 2 students will begin a new grammar unit on pronouns and adjectives. Lessons in this unit include:

- The pronouns *I* and *me*
- Possessive adjectives and pronouns
- Indefinite and reflexive pronouns
- Sensory words
- Adjectives that compare
- *A, an, and the; this and that; these and those*
- Adjective or adverb
- Adjectives in poems

Writing: This month in writing, students will use their new knowledge of adjectives and the writing process to successfully write a vivid description. At the end of unit, students will understand:

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.

- What a description is
- How to write a good topic sentence
- How to use sensory words to make descriptions more vivid

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

- Pets
- Animals
- The body

Mathematics: Grade 2 students begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalcuLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. Each math class also begins with students singing math skip counting songs. The Grade 2 students have memorized skip counting by 2's through 12's. Students will complete a unit titled "Metric Measurement of Length." Students will then complete a unit in which they will learn to measure the mass of objects. Specifically, students will learn to:

- Measure and compare length in centimetres and metres
- Measure and compare mass in grams and kilograms
- Complete real-world problems in relation to metric length and metric mass

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 for 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 2 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.