

January 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 4

Mrs. Cheryl Smith

[csmith@innovaacademy.ca](mailto:csmith@innovaacademy.ca)

Cheryl first encountered classical education while working with disadvantaged students in the inner city of Rochester, New York. She saw first-hand the benefits of teaching a curriculum rich in content that fostered a “back-to-basics” approach, building a strong foundation as well as enhancing learning in the classroom. Cheryl has completed her teaching certificate and master’s degree. Her teaching experiences have run the gamut of preschool to secondary English. In addition, Cheryl has developed and directed a Fine Arts program for Grades 3 to 6 at her local church, producing twelve musicals. In June 2011, she and her family moved to Newmarket. Cheryl is married to Barry and they have two adult children. She is passionate about teaching and is excited to be returning to the classroom full-time.



Cheryl Smith  
Teacher

Grade 3 and  
Grade 4



*Grade 4 students are actively engaged in building foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with reading, discussion, singing, 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.*

**Christian Education:** Following a review of the judges in Israel's history, students will begin a unit on the book of Ruth. This book is set in the time of the judges and tells the story of a godly Israelite family. Ruth, a Moabite woman, is an example of selflessness and true piety. Her inclusion in Israel and her place as an ancestor of David and of Christ is a sign that all nations are to be included in God's kingdom. Students will memorize Ruth 1:15-22. Lesson topics include:

- Ruth deciding
- Ruth serving
- Ruth resting
- Ruth rewarded

**Literature:** This month, students will read the legend of "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table." They will discuss chivalry and the qualities of an ideal medieval knight. Lesson titles include the following:

- The Rightful King of the Britons
- The City of Dreams and the Sword of Legend
- Guinevere and the Gift of the Round Table
- "Pretty-Hands" - a story
- The Hideous Lady
- Epilogue: The Fate of Camelot

**Writing and Penmanship:** Students are encouraged to use cursive writing for all written assignments. Practice of proper letter formation and the joining of letters will continue. In writing composition, students will:

- Compose their own "My Code of Chivalry" as they read King Arthur legends
- Write their own Arthurian legend with illustrations as a final project

**Spelling and Grammar:** As students study spelling and grammar, they develop a greater awareness of how the English language is structured and apply their skills to writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Correctly use their words in well-constructed sentences
- Learn the spelling rules associated with the assigned word list
- Learn about prepositions
- Identify prepositional phrases

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek vocabulary. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. This month, students will learn the following Greek and Latin words:

- ad, Latin—to, toward; near, next to (derivatives: adequate, adjective, admonish)
- jacio, jactum, Latin—throw (derivatives: eject, interject, project)
- pono, positum, Latin—lay, put, place (derivatives: pose, post, position)
- cum, Latin—with, together (derivatives: cooperate, collaborate, community)
- figo, fixum, Latin—fix, fasten, attach (derivatives: fixture, prefix, suffix)
- jungo, junctum, Latin—join, unite, connect (derivatives: joint, conjugate, conjunction)

**French:** In French this month, students will continue to practice communicating in French by answering oral and written questions. Students have begun learning sentence structure and they will continue to practice writing simple sentences. Students will:

- Be assigned roles for presenting *La poule Maboule* and begin practicing for their final presentations
- Review and learn new gestured vocabulary
- Learn and practice writing sentences

## Grade 4 – 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.

- Respond to questions about the story by answering in full sentences
- Continue to learn the Lord's Prayer in French

**History:** The focus of history this year is The Middle Ages from the collapse of the western Roman Empire to the Fall of Constantinople. Topics covered this month include:

- The English language
- Serfs and noblemen
- Stone castles
- The English code of chivalry
- The Samurai: Japanese knights

**Mathematics:** This month, students will describe a data set using the average (mean); find the mean, median, mode, and range of a set of data, and make and interpret line plots. In addition, students will:

- Organize and represent data in a stem-and-leaf plot
- Use a stem-and-leaf plot to find the median, mode, and range
- Decide whether an outcome is certain, more likely, equally likely, less likely, or impossible
- Determine the probability of an event
- Express probability as a fraction
- Solve real-world problems involving probability and measures of central tendency

**Science:** In science this month, students will focus their investigation on light. The following questions will be explored:

- What is light?
- How does light travel?
- How do shadows form?
- How does light reflect?
- How does light bend?
- How do we see?

**Visual Arts:** Students will begin studying tapestries and family pennants from the middle ages. The class will examine the symbols used on flags and pennants representing knights, royalty, and aristocratic families. Grade 4 students will learn weaving techniques and create a pennant of their own. Topics for this month include:

- Symbols found in shapes, patterns, and colours
- Weaving techniques used throughout history
- Manuscripts and illuminated letters

**Music:** In the new year, the Grade 4 class will begin to play recorder. They will also reinforce their knowledge of rhythm, learn about new composers and their music, and continue to practice singing in canon and singing in solfege. Students will:

- Label all dynamic markings
- Label da capo
- Understand and label the musical staff
- Sing in canon and solfege
- Review verse and refrain
- Learn about the composer Handel and listen to *Watermusic alla Hornpipe*

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

- Team work
- Defensive and offensive plays
- Jump shots
- Setting up plays

*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.