

January 2018

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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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 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 January, students will continue to focus on the following "keys to understanding" which they started considering last month:

- 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 7 students will be memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. By the end of January, students will be able to recite the first two chapters of James as well as verses 1-12 in chapter three. Major points in chapter three include:

- Taming the tongue
- Wisdom from above

Literature: During the month of January, students will listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about famous speeches that have been delivered throughout history. Students will understand what makes some speeches memorable, and others not. As students listen to and read speeches, they will look for various forms of rhetorical devices which make these speeches effective. Specific speeches and lessons will include, but are not limited to:

- *I Have a Dream* - Martin Luther King, Jr.
- *We Shall Fight on the Beaches* - Winston Churchill
- Rhetorical Devices: alliteration, allusion, anaphora, epistrophe, hyperbole, hypophora, metaphor, parallelism, repetition, simile

Writing: This month, students will use the skills they are learning in literature about speeches and apply them to their writing as they prepare to compose their own original and effective speech. Along with the above rhetorical devices, students will also focus on the following:

- Choosing an effective topic
- Creating a detailed outline
- Conducting research
- Drafting, revising, and editing

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

- 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:

- e/ex (L): exit, exclude, evidence, elaborate, effort, elect, educate, excel, except, erase, eruption, evacuate
- archos (G): archaeology, archaic, archbishop, archduke, architect, hierarchy, monarchy, oligarchy, patriarch
- arcus (L): arc, arch, arcade, archer, archery, archway, overarching
- circum (L): circle, circumference, circus, circa, circuit, circulation, circumscribe, circumstance, circumspect
- kyklos (G): cycle, bicycle, tricycle, motorcycle, cyclometer, cyclone, encyclopedia, Cyclops

French: In French this month, students will practice the play *Louis la grenouille* in small groups and as a class to work towards memorization. Students will continue to learn grammar principles and apply them to their conversational speech. Students will:

- Review and learn new vocabulary
- Learn grammar principles such as verb conjugation and apply them to their speech

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.

- Respond to questions aloud and in writing
- Practice retelling the story of *Louis la grenouille* in their own words
- Continue to memorize 1 John 3:1

History/Geography: In history this month, students will begin a unit titled *Wars of Modern Times and the Hope of Mankind, 1948 – Date Unknown*. Specific lessons in the month of January include:

- The formation of Israel (May 14, 1948)
- Mother Theresa and Billy Graham: two extraordinary lives of the twentieth century (1948, 1949)
- Mao Zedong forms the People's Republic of China (October 1, 1949)
- The Korean War (1950 – 1953)

Mathematics: In the month of January, students will study functions. A function is a relation between a set of inputs and outputs. Lessons will focus on:

- Understanding relations and functions
- Representing functions
- Understanding linear and nonlinear functions
- Comparing two functions

Science: Students will finish their work on the basics of matter this month, then students will focus on properties of substances. They will study the following:

- Physical and chemical properties
- Temperature, pressure, and volume
- Phases of matter
- Density

Visual Arts: Students will examine landscape paintings of the masters focusing on the works of Impressionist painters. Students will learn about value and light as those elements affect proportion and space. Topics include:

- Cross-hatching to suggest volume and shadows
- Monet's garden
- The changing light: painting light and value
- Degas' dancers: figures in motion

Music: In the Grade 8 music class, students will continue their choral training in canons and two-part harmony as well as continue their ukulele lessons. They will expand their knowledge of composers, music notation, and terms. Lesson topics include:

- Review of introduction, interlude, coda, theme and variations
- An introduction to sonata form
- Bass clef: G2 to A3
- Vocal technique, solfege, and part singing
- Chords and cadences
- Time period: Romantic
- Composers: Chopin, Schumann, Liszt
- Listening: "Raindrop" Prelude, Liebestraum, Schuman Piano Concerto

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.