

February 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1

Mrs. Melissa Vecchiarelli

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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 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 February, Grade 1 students will continue a study of the book of Psalms, completing the memorization of Psalm 23. Students will then begin memorizing Psalm 46. Topics covered this month include:

- The Second Intermediate Period in Egypt
- Hyksos invasion of Egypt
- Early New Kingdom in Egypt

Literature and 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 February, literature study will focus on Aesop's Fables. Fables studied will be *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, *The Dog in the Manger*, and *The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing*. Literature study will also include Valentine's Day stories and poetry. Students will:

- Role play
- Develop listening skills
- Identify author, character, setting, and plot
- 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 characters, setting, problem, outcome, and lesson of the story, highlighting biblical application
- Sequence the events of a story and retell the story in his or 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 are 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
- Review, read, spell, and identify the following multi-letter phonograms: *er, ir, ur, ear, wor ea, ee, ng, oo, or, ow, th, igh, ie, dge, wr*
- Learn new multi-letter phonograms: *ti, ci, si, tch, eigh, ei, ey, ph*
- Continue learning 20 spelling list words each week

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

- Creatively write 10 sentences using their weekly spelling list words
- Identify that many verbs can show what happened in the past by adding -ed
- Use past tense forms of words
- Identify that *am, is, are, was and were* are being verbs and use them in their writing
- Identify and use present tense verbs with helping verbs and -ing
- Identify and use the future tense
- Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs
- Choose appropriate verbs in their writing

Latin: In February, students will review words about family members and people, and learn a new unit titled "Household Items". Words learned include:

- Casa (house)

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.

- Porta (door)
- Murus (wall)
- Fenestra (window)

Mathematics: Grade 1 students 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 "Ordinal Numbers and Positions" and then begin a unit titled "Numbers to 20". Students will:

- Count on from 10 to 20
- Read and write 11 to 20 in numbers and words
- Use a place value chart to show numbers up to 20
- Show objects up to 20 as tens and ones
- Compare numbers to 20
- Order numbers by making number patterns

Science: Students will complete a unit on motion and then begin a unit focusing on healthy foods and habits. Using the scientific process, students will explore the following:

- Friction
- Magnets
- The food groups
- Balanced diets
- Keeping clean
- The importance of rest

Visual Arts: This month, students will examine artifacts and tools that rulers in Egypt, India, and Mesopotamia used to write and sign their names. Students will:

- Finish painting pinch pots
- Create a personalized seal
- Mix primary colours to create secondary colours

Music: Students will focus on becoming more familiar with the Orff instruments. They will also continue to practice singing with solfege, rhythm, and directional note reading. More specific goals include:

- Percussion patterns on the Orff instruments
- Solfege composition and dictation
- Tone quality in singing
- Percussion instruments
- Whole rest
- The life and music of J. S. Bach

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

- Dribbling
- Bounce pass & chest pass
- Shooting
- Basic understanding of rules: traveling and double dribbling, teamwork, and good sportsmanship

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

Upcoming Events

February 2 – Exordium **AND** Non-Uniform Day **AND** Pasta Lunch **AND** Grade 8 Visit Day
February 6 – TSO Field Trip – Grades 3-8
February 9 – Pizza Lunch
February 16 – PA Day – No School
February 19 – Family Day – No School
February 22 – 7/8 Boys' Basketball Tournament (TBD)
February 23 – In-School Speech Meet **AND** Pizza Lunch
February 26 – Reports Sent Home
February 27 – 7/8 Girls' Basketball Tournament (TBD)

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