

February 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova

Teresa Veltman completed her Bachelor's Degree in French and Christianity and Culture at the University of Toronto and her Bachelor's Degree in Education at Redeemer University. Her previous experience includes teaching Grades 2 and 3, training teachers in Uganda, instructing English as a Second Language, homeschooling her own children, and most recently, running a music studio. Teresa first learned about classical Christian education when she was homeschooling her children. She especially appreciates how classical Christian education builds a solid foundation of knowledge to equip students for higher learning. Teresa lives in Stouffville with her husband and two teenaged children. She values the opportunity to teach in a Christian setting at Innova Academy and is grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate God's love to her students.



Teresa Veltman
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 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: Grade 2 students will build and refine oral reading fluency and comprehension skills. During the month of February, students will complete a novel study on *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney. While studying this novel, specific attention will be given to the following objectives:

- Introduce the use of word imagery as well as literary devices such as similes and metaphors
- Continue to demonstrate comprehension and draw inferences from the text
- Compare and contrast characters from different stories
- Continue to discuss vocabulary taken from the text

Spelling and Penmanship: Spelling and penmanship will be learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will continue to review phonograms and spelling rules. This month, Grade 2 students will:

- Learn 20 spelling list words each week
- Review phonograms as they appear in their list words
- Learn to put their list words in alphabetical order
- Learn the following spelling rules:
 - 1-1-1 Rule: With a one syllable word ending in one vowel then one consonant, double the last consonant before adding a vowel suffix (get, getting)
 - -E's Dropping Rule: Drop the silent final E when adding a vowel suffix (hope, hoping, hopeless)

Grammar: This month, Grade 2 students will begin a new grammar unit on contractions. Students will not only understand how contractions are formed but be able to discern when using contractions is appropriate (informal writing) and when they should be avoided (formal writing). Students will identify and form contractions with the following words:

- *Not, am, is, are, have, has, and had*

Writing: In writing this month, students in Grade 2 will use prior writing and grammar knowledge to write a how-to article with sensory details. Specific skills to be assessed this unit include:

- Proper use of nouns, verbs, and adjectives
- Correct capitalization and punctuation
- Proper use of transition words *first, next, then, and finally*
- Proper sentence structure
- Correct spelling of sight words
- Good penmanship

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.

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

- The Face
- Food Words

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. This month, students will continue to review their skip counting songs. They will complete a unit on volume as well as a unit on mental math and estimation. Topics include:

- Measure volume in litres
- Mentally add and subtract larger numbers

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 (TDB)

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