

February 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 to 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 February, students will focus on the following "keys to understanding":

- Key question: How should we behave?
- Key Idea: God is concerned about our inner attitudes as well as our outward actions. We discover what is moral by learning about God's character and how He has made us and the world.
- Key Terms: ethics, individual moral relativism, cultural moral relativism, moral absolutes
- Key Verses: Matthew 22:37-39 and Colossians 3:17

Bible Memorization: Throughout the year, Grade 8 students will be memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. By the end of February, students will be able to recite the first two chapters of James as well as verses 1-18 in chapter three. Major points in chapter three include:

- Taming the tongue
- Wisdom from above

Literature: During the month of February, students will listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about various short stories. Stories will include:

- "To Build a Fire" by Jack London
- "The Piece of String" by Guy de Maupassant
- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson

Writing: This month, students will continue to apply rhetorical techniques learned from analyzing famous speeches to the original speeches they are composing for the upcoming in-class, school, and ACSI speech meets. The following criteria will be assessed:

- Rhetorical appeals: logos, pathos, ethos
- Rhetorical devices: hyperbole, anaphora, epistrophe, hypophora, and various forms of parallelism
- Revising and editing
- Presentation skills: enunciation, eye contact, appropriate gestures, engaging the audience, tone

Grammar: This month in grammar, students will understand that adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Specific lessons will include:

- Types of adverbs
- Interrogative adverbs and adverbial nouns
- Comparative and superlative adverbs
- *As...as*, *so...as*, and *equally*
- Adverb phrases and clauses

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will continue to learn the following Latin and Greek words and their derivatives:

- circum (L): circle, circumference, circus, circa, circuit, circulation, circumscribe, circumstance, circumspect
- kyklos (G): cycle, bicycle, tricycle, motorcycle, cyclometer, cyclone, encyclopedia, cyclops
- peri (G): perimeter, periscope, perigee, perihelion, period, peripatetic, peripheral, peristyle
- theos (G): theology, monotheism, polytheism, atheist, theocracy, Pantheon, enthusiasm, Dorothy, Theodore
- Deus (L): deity, deify, deist, adieu, addio, adios, deus
- Divinus (L): divine (noun, adjective, & verb), diviner, divine right of kings, diva

French: In French this month, students will learn more about speaking in past tense and conjugating verbs to agree with pronouns. Students will continue to learn gestured vocabulary and work towards communicating solely in French. Students will:

- Review and use vocabulary in classroom activities
- Learn grammar principles such as *passé composé*

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.

- Practice retelling the story of *Louis la grenouille*
- Work on sentence structure and answering questions in writing
- Memorize 1 Peter 1:3

History/Geography: In history this month, students will continue our unit titled "Wars of Modern Times and the Hope of Mankind, 1948 – Date Unknown". Specific lessons in the month of February include:

- The Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis
- The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
- The United States Enters the Vietnam War
- The Life and Death of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Man Walks on the Moon

Mathematics: Students will study functions this month. A function is a relation between a set of inputs and outputs. The 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 properties of substances and then focus on the study of electricity. Topics include:

- The nature of electricity
- Static electricity
- How electric currents work
- Ohm's law
- Series and parallel circuits

Visual Arts: Students will examine sculptures of the Impressionists and create sculptures of their own. Grade 8 students will begin learning about the art movement of the Fauves. Students will:

- Learn sculptural techniques
- Examine sculptures and paintings that communicate movement
- Learn about the Impressionist masters
- Explore the historical events that contributed to the art movements of Impressionism

Music: In the second half of the school year, Grade 8 students will continue to expand choral technique and ensemble skills. They will also begin to learn more complex ukulele music and refine their score reading abilities. Specific skills include:

- Singing technique
- Identifying intervals
- Rhythmic reading
- Cadence and chord recognition
- Listen to and discuss the characteristics of late romantic and modern music: Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Mahler

Physical Education: This month, students will finish playing basketball and then start badminton. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Stance
- Hitting techniques
- Court positioning
- Playing singles and doubles in badminton

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.