

March 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

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

Grade 1  
Mrs. Melissa Vecchiarelli  
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*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 March, Grade 1 students will continue a study of the book of Psalms. Students will begin memorizing Psalm 46. Topics covered this month include:

- Amenhotep IV and monotheism
- The reign of Tutankhamun

**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 March, students will begin a novel study of *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A.A Milne. Students will:

- Identify story structure elements: setting, characters, and plot
- Identify details that explain characters' actions and feelings
- Identify characters' problems and how they try to solve them

**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, ti, ci, si, tch, eigh, ei, ey, ph*
- Review past spelling words: its, thank, gave, page, cut, what, than, take, alike, each, went, sing, sang, sung, song.
- Continue learning 20 spelling list words each week

**Writing and Grammar:** In the month of March, students will begin a new unit titled "Personal Narratives". Students will:

- Identify the beginning, middle, and ending of a personal narrative
- Identify the use of I, me, and my in a personal narrative
- Choose a topic for a personal narrative
- Write a personal narrative using a story frame
- Creatively write 10 sentences using their weekly spelling list words

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

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

## 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.

**Mathematics:** Grade 1 students will 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 begin a new unit titled "Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20" Students will:

- Use different strategies to add 1- and 2-digit numbers
- Subtract a 1-digit number from a 2-digit number with and without re-grouping
- Solve real-world problems

**Science:** This month, students will complete their healthy living unit and begin investigating bones and muscles. Using various tactile means students will explore:

- A balanced diet
- The bones in our bodies
- Caring for our bones
- Joints

**Visual arts:** This month in visual arts, students will continue to learn about the art forms used in ancient cultures. Students will continue to memorize and learn verses of an art history song that summarizes the important art history facts that they have learned so far this year. Students will:

- Finish printing using their personalized seals
- Examine mosaic and tile work in ancient cultures
- Learn about warm and cool colours

**Music:** This month, the Grade 1 class will continue to refine their technique on the Orff instruments as well as continue to learn more about reading and writing music on the musical staff. Topics include:

- Syncopated rhythmic notation
- Understanding phrases
- Instruments of the orchestra
- Composition on the musical staff
- Spring concert repertoire

**Physical Education:** During the month of March, Grade 1 students will learn and participate in the game of kickball. Specific skills to be introduced include:

- Kicking a ball
- Throwing and catching a ball
- Running bases
- Following given rules
- Playing as a team
- Sportsmanship

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

## Upcoming Events

March 1 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga AND Parent-Teacher Interviews  
March 2 – Exordium AND Pizza Lunch  
March 5-16 – March Break – No School  
March 19 – Classes Resume  
March 23 – Pizza Lunch  
March 29 – Pasta Lunch  
March 30 & April 2 – Good Friday & Easter Monday – No School

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