

March 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Cheryl first encountered classical education while working with disadvantaged students in the inner city of Rochester, New York. She saw first-hand the benefits of teaching a curriculum rich in content that fostered a “back-to-basics” approach, building a strong foundation as well as enhancing learning in the classroom. Cheryl has completed her teaching certificate and master’s degree. Her teaching experiences have run the gamut of preschool to secondary English. In addition, Cheryl has developed and directed a Fine Arts program for Grades 3 to 6 at her local church, producing twelve musicals. In June 2011, she and her family moved to Newmarket. Cheryl is married to Barry and they have two adult children. She is passionate about teaching and is excited to be returning to the classroom full-time.



Cheryl Smith  
Teacher

Grade 3 and  
Grade 4

Grade 4

Mrs. Cheryl Smith

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*Grade 4 students are actively engaged in building foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with reading, discussion, singing, 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.*

**Christian Education:** Having completed a study of Samuel, the last judge of Israel, students will launch into a unit on the life of Saul, the first king of Israel. Prior to this point, the Lord God had been Israel’s king. Now Israel moves from a theocracy to a monarchy. Lesson titles include the following:

- The Anointing of King Saul
- Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead
- Saul Disobeys God
- Jonathan’s Obedience
- Anointing a New King

**Literature:** This month, students will continue their study of the novel, *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman. Students will:

- Demonstrate comprehension of the text and draw inferences
- Discuss plot elements
- Explore vocabulary used in the text
- Relate events in the novel to topics discussed in history class
- Apply biblical principles to the text

**Writing and Penmanship:** Students will continue to practice proper letter formation, especially with the uppercase letters, as well as the joining of letters to build fluidity in cursive writing. Students will:

- Write well-constructed sentences in short answer responses to comprehensive questions across the curriculum
- Write their own Arthurian legend with illustrations

**Spelling and Grammar:** As students study spelling and grammar, they develop greater awareness of how the English language is structured and apply their skills to writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Correctly use their spelling words in well-constructed sentences
- Learn the spelling rules associated with the assigned word list
- Learn the preposition chant
- Identify prepositional phrases

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will study the following words:

- jungo, junctum, Latin—join, unite, connect (derivatives: joint, conjugate, conjunction)
- digitus, Latin—finger, toe, inch (derivatives: digit, digital computer, digitalis)
- caput, capitus, Latin—head (derivatives: capital, captain, cabbage)
- manus, Latin—hand (derivatives: manufacture, manifest, manuscript)

**French:** In French this month, students will continue to work towards speaking solely in French, and they will practice communicating in French during class and group activities. Students will answer questions and practice new vocabulary. Students will:

- Review gestured vocabulary and use vocabulary in conversation

## Grade 4 – 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.

- Answer questions by writing complete sentences
- Learn the months of the year, days of the week, seasons, and the numbers 1-31
- Continue to learn and memorize the Lord's Prayer in French

**History:** The focus of history this year is The Middle Ages from the collapse of the western Roman Empire to the Fall of Constantinople. Topics covered this month include:

- The scattering of the Jews
- A tale of the diaspora
- Unit review
- Assessment of chapters 18, 19, & 20

**Mathematics:** Students will work to complete the chapter on fractions and mixed numbers, followed by a mid-year review and assessment. Topics include:

- Improper fractions
- Renaming improper fractions and mixed numbers
- Renaming whole numbers when adding and subtracting fractions
- Real-world problems: fractions and mixed numbers
- Fraction of a set

**Science:** Students will complete their investigation of light this month, followed by a unit assessment. Remaining lesson topics to be covered are:

- How do we see light?
- What is colour?
- How is light used in technology?

**Visual arts:** This month in visual arts, students will learn calligraphy techniques and examine illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages. Students will continue their study of family emblems and symbols of nobility and knights. Students will:

- Finish weaving their pennants
- Study calligraphy techniques and illuminated letters
- Create illuminated letters

**Music:** As we approach spring, it is time to begin preparing for the spring concert. The Grade 4 class will begin preparing Orff and choir repertoire as well as continue to practice recorder. Topics include:

- Orff repertoire
- Major and minor solfège
- Recorder and treble clef notation
- Simple two-part singing

**Physical Education:** This month, students will focus on badminton, playing in both singles and doubles. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Hitting technique
- Eye-hand coordination
- Accuracy

*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.