

March 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

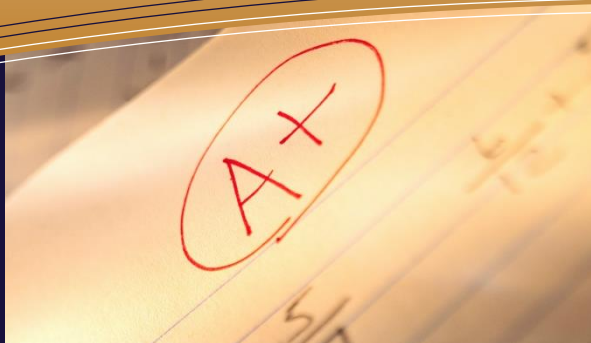
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Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to 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 March, students will continue to focus on the following "keys to understanding" which they began last month:

- 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 March, students will be able to recite the first three chapters of James as well as verses 1 – 6 in chapter four. The major point in chapter four for the month of March is:

- Warning against worldliness

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

- "The Lady, or the Tiger" by Frank R. Stockton
- "To Build a Fire" by Jack London
- "The Piece of String" by Guy de Maupassant

**Writing:** In writing this month, students will complete an argumentative essay in response to Stockton's short story, "The Lady, or the Tiger". Their five-paragraph essays will include:

- A strong introduction that includes a summary, an attention grabber, and a well-thought-out thesis statement.
- Two body paragraphs elaborating on main points and supported by textual evidence.
- One body paragraph that includes a counterclaim and an attack to that counter claim with supporting textual evidence.
- A strong conclusion that restates the original thesis statement and summarizes main ideas.

**Grammar:** This month in grammar, students will continue lessons to help them 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

## 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.

**French:** In French this month, students will continue to build their vocabulary and work towards speaking solely in French during class. Students will continue to practice speaking in the past tense and conjugating verbs in conversation. Students will:

- Review gestured vocabulary and use vocabulary in conversation
- Answer questions orally and by writing complete sentences
- Practice correcting grammatical errors
- Practice retelling the story of *Louis la grenouille* in their own words
- Continue to 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 March include:

- Roe v. Wade
- Watergate and the Resignation of President Richard M. Nixon
- Ayatollah Khomeini Forms the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The Assassination of Anwar Sadat

**Mathematics:** Students will study the Pythagorean Theorem, and real-world applications of it. The Pythagorean Theorem describes the relationship among the three sides of a right-angle triangle. They will focus on:

- Understanding the Pythagorean Theorem
- Understanding the Pythagorean Theorem and solids
- Identifying Volumes of Composite Solids

**Science:** Students will work on their science fair projects throughout the next two months and will also continue their study of electricity. They will study the following:

- Types of currents
- Ohm's law
- Series and parallel circuits

**Visual Arts:** This month in visual arts, students will continue their study of Impressionist artists by examining the work of Degas and Rodin. Students will work on figure drawing and creating a sculpture of an athlete in motion. Students will:

- Complete black and white value paintings
- Learn sculptural techniques
- Examine sculptures and paintings that communicate movement
- Learn about the Impressionist masters

**Music:** The Grade 8 music class continues to progress in their choral singing, note reading, and ukulele ensemble. This month, we begin a new unit in ukulele and will continue to refine both vocal technique and reading notation as we prepare for the spring concert. Specific items covered are:

- Chords in B flat on the ukulele
- Spring concert repertoire for ukulele and choir
- History: 21st century music
- Composers: Barber, Bartok, Prokofiev
- Theme and Variations

**Physical Education:** This month, students will focus on badminton, preparing them for the upcoming tournament. 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.