

April 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1

Mrs. Melissa Vecchiarelli

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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 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 April, students will continue to memorize Psalm 46. Topics covered this month include:

- Later New Kingdom of Egypt
- Davidic Kingdom
- Solomon's Kingdom

Literature and Vocabulary: In the month of April, students will continue a novel study of *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A.A Milne. Students will:

- Identify story structure elements including setting, characters, and plot
- Identify details that explain characters' actions and feelings
- Identify characters' problems and how they try to solve them
- Complete a chapter by chapter review

Spelling and Phonics and Penmanship: Spelling, phonics, and penmanship are practiced together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will:

- Continue learning 20 spelling list words each week
- Creatively write 10 sentences using their weekly spelling list words
- Review multi-letter phonograms *ar, er, ng, oi, oo, ou, oy, sh*
- Identify and create compound words
- Practice adding -s and -ed to their spelling words

Writing and Grammar: In the month of April, students will begin a new unit titled "Pronouns and Adjectives". Students will:

- Identify personal pronouns
- Use the pronoun *it*
- Distinguish between the pronouns *he* and *she*
- Use and identify the pronouns *I* and *me*
- Distinguish between the uses of *I* and *me*
- Use the pronoun *you*
- Distinguish between the pronouns *we* and *they*
- Identify and use the possessive adjectives *my, your, her, his, our, and their*

Latin: In April, students will review words about household items, and begin a new unit titled "Classroom items". Students will:

- Learn and use Latin words associated with the classroom
- Enjoy singing an interactive song

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 continue and complete a unit titled "Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20". Students will:

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.

- Solve real-world problems

This month, students will also begin a new unit titled "Length". Students will:

- Compare two lengths using the terms tall/taller, long/longer, and short/shorter
- Compare two lengths by comparing each with a third length
- Compare more than two lengths using the terms tallest, longest, and shortest
- Use a common starting point when comparing lengths

Science: This month in science, students will continue learning about the human body. Through various hands on experiments students will explore both the skeletal and muscular system in our bodies. Topics this month will include:

- What are bones like?
- What bones are in your body?
- How should we care for our bones?
- What are joints like?
- What do skeletal muscles do?
- What do involuntary muscles do?
- How should we care for our muscles?

Visual arts: This month in visual arts, students will examine mosaic and tile work found in ancient civilizations followed by portraiture. Students will:

- Learn about warm and cool colours
- Learn about mosaic and tile artwork
- Examine Egyptian portraiture
- Learn about proportions and techniques for drawing people and create their own portrait in Egyptian style

Music: As we enter the final months of the school year, the Grade 1 class will begin preparing repertoire for the spring concert. They will also gather and apply their knowledge of rhythmic and musical notation to create a musical composition. Additionally, they will continue to prepare their choral pieces and develop their knowledge of the orchestra. Specific skills include:

- Time signatures
- Playing and listening as an ensemble
- Writing music
- Identifying instruments of the orchestra
- Playing Orff instruments

Physical Education: During the month of April, Grade 1 students will learn and play the game of lacrosse. Specific skills will include:

- Passing and catching with the lacrosse stick
- Running with a lacrosse stick
- Scoring goals in lacrosse
- Practicing 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

April 2 – Easter Monday – No School

April 6 & 20 – Pizza Lunch

April 17 – TSO Field Trip (JK-Gr. 2) – Roy Thomson Hall

April 23 – Badminton Tournament (Gr. 7/8) - Stouffville

April 26 – Math Olympics (Gr. 4-8) - Mississauga

April 27 – Pasta Lunch

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