

April 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:** Students will continue studying King Saul's reign. God rejected Saul as king because of his disobedience. He chose David to be Israel's second king. With his victory over Goliath, David became very popular with the people of Israel. Saul's jealousy of David did nothing to help him as he ruled over Israel. Rather, it contributed to his own demise as king. Memory work for this unit includes the following verses: 1 Samuel 15:22; 1 Samuel 16:7b; Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14 (ESV). Lesson topics include:

- David and Goliath
- Saul's Jealousy
- David and Jonathan
- David Spares Saul
- David, Nabal, and Abigail
- David in Philistia
- The Witch of Endor
- David Destroys the Amalekites; Deaths of Jonathan and Saul

**Literature:** Following the novel study *The Whipping Boy*, students will begin a unit on weather. The focus will be on reading articles from a magazine entitled "Weather or Not". Students will learn skills necessary for reading and understanding nonfiction texts, including:

- Identifying and using features of nonfiction texts such as headings, captions, sidebars, and glossaries
- Identifying the author's purpose, main idea, and supporting details
- Recognizing cause-and-effect relationships
- Comparing and contrasting texts
- Summarizing texts
- Using context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words

**Writing and Penmanship:** Students will be encouraged to continue honing their cursive writing, taking care to write legibly and neatly. Students will:

- Write well-constructed sentences 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. Students will:

- Correctly use their spelling words in well-constructed sentences
- Learn the spelling rules associated with the assigned word list
- Identify adjectives
- Use more descriptive words in their writing

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

- dens, dentis, Latin—tooth (derivatives: dent; dentist; dandelion)
- corpus, corporis, Latin—body (derivatives: corps; corporation; corpse)
- unus, Latin—one (derivatives: unit; union; united; universe)
- duo, Latin—two (derivatives: duet; duplicate; duel)
- tres, Latin—three (derivatives: trio; tricycle; tripod; triangle)
- quattuor, Latin—four (derivatives: quadruped; quadrilateral; quatrain)
- quinque, Latin—five (derivatives: quinquennial; quinquagenarian; quinquilateral)
- sex, Latin—six (derivatives: sexennial; sexagenarian; sexdigital)
- septem, Latin—seven (derivatives: September, septennial; septangle)
- octo, Latin—eight (derivatives: October; octopus; octagon)

## 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.

- novem, Latin—nine (derivatives: November; novena; novennial)
- decem, Latin—ten (derivatives: December; decennial; decemfoliate)

**French:** Students will begin learning a new play this month called *Le chat et la lune*. Students will continue to work towards speaking only in French during activities and classroom conversations. Students will:

- Learn the months of the year, seasons, and numbers 1-31
- Learn new gestured vocabulary
- Answer questions about the play *Le chat et la lune*
- 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. Along with learning the timeline song for this period in history, topics covered this month include:

- The Rus (Russians) come to Constantinople
- Ivan the Great and Ivan the Terrible
- The Ottoman Turks attack
- The capture of Constantinople
- Suleiman the lawgiver
- The plague
- A new way of living

**Mathematics:** Following the completion of the mid-year review, students will begin a unit on decimals. Topics include:

- Understanding tenths and hundredths
- Comparing and rounding decimals
- Fractions and decimals
- Adding and subtracting decimals
- Real-world problems: decimals

**Science:** Students will begin a new unit on the investigation of sound. Lessons will answer the following questions:

- How does sound carry energy?
- What causes high and low sounds?
- What causes loud and soft sounds?
- How does sound interact within different materials?
- How do we hear?
- What is noise?
- How is sound used in technology?

**Visual arts:** This month in visual arts, students will create illuminated letters based on their study of calligraphy in the Middle Ages. Students will examine illuminated letters from manuscripts and learn about the process of copying manuscripts. Students will:

- Study calligraphy techniques
- Create illuminated letters

**Music:** In the next month, the Grade 4 class will continue to expand their knowledge of notes on the treble clef staff as well as practice their singing and recorder repertoire for the spring concert. Specifically, they will cover:

- Spring concert repertoire
- Recorder repertoire
- Singing techniques
- Composers in the Classical and Romantic Eras

**Physical Education:** This month, students will continue to learn and practice badminton. They will focus on improving their skills in the following areas:

- Game strategy
- Hitting form and techniques
- Footwork

*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.