

April 2018

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

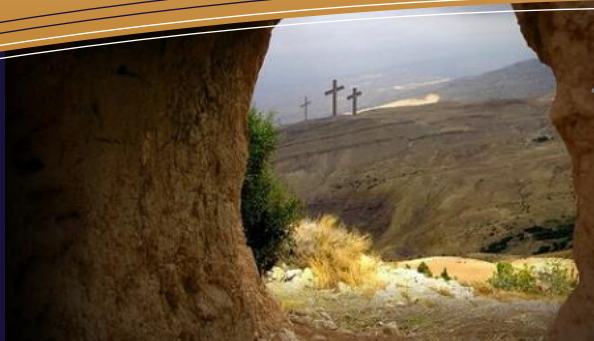
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Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to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

- Key Question: What is the origin of life?
- Key Idea: Life's origin and design display the work of an Intelligent Designer.
- Key Terms: biology, Darwinism, design theory, abiogenesis, Law of Biogenesis, spontaneous generation, macro-evolution, adaptation, micro-evolution, information theory
- Key Verses: Genesis 1:21-27 and John 1:3

Bible Memorization: Throughout the year, Grade 8 students will be memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. By the end of April, students will review the first three chapters of James and memorize chapter 4. The major teachings in chapter 4 for the month of April are:

- Warning against worldliness
- Boasting about tomorrow

Literature: During the month of April, students will listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about Harper Lee's classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Objectives include:

- Understanding the world of the 1930s
- Character analysis
- Analyzing themes
 - Courage & bravery
 - Racism & prejudice
 - Education & learning
 - Innocence & growing up
 - Justice & social class
- Plot structure
- Narrative perspective

Writing: This month, students will write creatively in response to Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Writing prompts may include:

- Writing from a specific character's perspective/point-of-view
- Writing a film script about a specific event within the novel
- Creating a news report about the events of the Tom Robinson court case
- Writing a comparison piece between two characters in the novel

Grammar: In grammar this month, students will complete units on verbals and sentence diagramming. Specific lessons will include:

- Gerunds – verbals that end in –ing and function as nouns
- Participles – verbals when they function as adjectives
- Infinitives – verbals which can function as nouns, adverbs, or adjectives
- Diagramming – simple sentences, appositives, and compound sentences

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will continue to learn the following Latin and Greek words and their derivatives:

- 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.

- Homo/Hominis (L): homo sapiens, homage, human, humane, homunculus, ad hominem
- Anthropos (G): anthropology, anthropomorphic, philanthropy, philanthropist, misanthrope

French: Students have been assigned their roles for the play *Louis la grenouille* and they will begin to memorize their roles. Students will focus this month on writing sentences applying different grammar principles. Students will:

- Learn their lines and roles for the play *Louis la grenouille*
- Learn grammar principles including past tense and conjugative verbs for present tense
- Continue to practice answering questions orally and in writing
- Memorize Hebrews 4:16

History/Geography: In history this month, students will continue our unit titled "Wars of Modern Times and the Hope of Mankind, 1948 – Date Unknown". Lesson titles include:

- The Fall of the Berlin Wall Marks the End of the Cold War
- Saddam Hussein and the Persian Gulf War
- The Collapse of the Soviet Union

Mathematics: Students will study Geometric Transformations. Geometric transformations move figures about on a plane. Each type of transformation changes some properties of a figure but leaves other properties unchanged. Students will focus on:

- Translations
- Reflections
- Rotations
- Dilations
- Comparing transformations

Science: Students will work on their science fair projects throughout this month as well as begin a study of earth and space. Our ancestors used their knowledge of constellations for travel and had a rudimentary understanding of the cosmos. Students will start the unit by investigating the following:

- Stellar and constellation recognition
- Distances in space and astronomical units
- Other heavenly bodies

Visual Arts: This month in visual arts, students will complete their figure sculptures of athletes in action. Students will examine the work of M.C. Escher and learn about optical illusions. Students will:

- Complete figure sculpture
- Learn about optical illusions and changing perspective
- Learn pen and ink techniques
- Learn about cross-hatching and shading to create depth

Music: The Grade 8 class will continue to expand their knowledge of ukulele, the treble clef staff, and two-part harmony as well as practice repertoire for the spring concert. Topics include:

- F scale on ukulele
- Spring choral and ukulele repertoire
- Chording on the ukulele
- Organizing composers by era

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 technique
- 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.