

May 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova

Melissa Vecchiarelli completed an Honours Bachelor's 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
Mrs. Melissa Vecchiarelli
mvecchiarelli@innovaacademy.ca

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. During the month of May, students will continue and complete their memorization of Psalm 46. Students will also learn the countries of Western Europe through song. Topics covered this month include:

- Alexander the Great conquers Egypt
- Egypt falls to Rome

Literature and Vocabulary: In the month of May, students will begin a novel study of *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White. Students will:

- Fill in a chapter by chapter review
- Review story structure elements (setting, characters, and plot)
- Identify story events that explain characters' actions and feelings
- Explore characters' problems and how they solve them

Spelling, Phonics and Penmanship: Spelling, phonics, and penmanship will be learned 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 *ea, ear, oa, oo, ou, ir, sh, ui, ur, wh, wor*
- Practice matching multi-letter phonograms to a word that contains them
- Alphabetize their spelling words

Writing and Grammar: In the month of May, students will begin a new unit titled "Contractions". Students will:

- Learn to form contractions
- Identify and use contractions

Latin: This month, students will review words about classroom items, and begin a new unit titled "Classroom Commands". Students will:

- learn words related to classroom actions
- learn an interactive song and game

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.

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 "Weight". Students will:

- Compare the weight of different objects using the terms 'heavy', 'heavier', 'heaviest', 'light', 'lighter', 'lightest', and 'as heavy or light as'
- Compare weight using a non-standard object as a unit of measurement
- Use the term 'unit' when writing the weight of things
- Arrange objects according to their weight

Science: This month in science, students will begin our STEM program. Through various tactile experiences, students will focus on the engineering design process through constructing sturdy building designs. Topics covered this month include:

- Building a playground structure
- Engineering principles such as gears and levers

Visual arts: This month in visual arts, students will examine ancient portraits from Egypt. They will learn about changes in portraiture over the course of history as they observe that portraiture changed as Egypt was conquered by the Greeks and Romans. Students will:

- Complete their class mosaic
- Create self-portraits in the style of the ancient Egyptians
- Learn about proportions and drawing people

Music: Grade 1 students are very busy preparing for the Innova spring concert on May 17th. The content of their concert repertoire includes concepts such as:

- Singing technique
- Instruments of the orchestra
- Orff ensemble
- Boomwhackers ensemble
- Rhythm

Physical Education: During the month of May, students will enjoy the warmer weather by completing an introductory unit on track and field. Specific lessons will include:

- Short and long-distance running
- Relay races
- Long jump
- Ball throw

Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.

Upcoming Events

- May 4 – Exordium – Parents Welcome **AND** Pizza Lunch
- May 7 – Science Fair – Gym
- May 10 – Shape Event with Lee Strobel – Main Sanctuary
- May 11 – Pastors' Appreciation Breakfast
- May 16 – York Immunization Clinic (Gr. 7)
- May 17 – Spring Concert and Art Exhibit – Main Sanctuary
- May 18 – Mission Trip to the Dominican (Gr. 7/8) **AND** Pizza Lunch
- May 23 – Zoo Field Trip (JK-Gr. 2)
- May 29 – Track and Field (Gr. 7/8) – Centennial Park
- May 31 – Track and Field (Gr. 3-6) – Centennial Park

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