

May 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



At Innova

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: Following an assessment on the life and reign of King Saul, students will begin to study the life and reign of King David. David was a great king because he trusted and obeyed God. His sins brought consequences for himself and for his family. However, David confessed his sins and was still known as a man after God’s own heart. Memory work for this unit will be Psalm 24 and Psalm 51:10-12 (ESV). Topics will include the following:

- David becomes king
- David begins his reign
- God’s covenant with David
- David’s conquests
- David and Bathsheba
- Nathan’s rebuke
- Trouble in David’s family
- David’s last year

Literature: Students will focus on reading nonfiction selections by reading articles from a magazine titled *Weather or Not*. Students will learn the characteristics of non-fiction with a focus on how to use the features of a magazine. Article titles include:

- *Forecasting the Weather*
- *Let It Rain*
- *Winter Storms*
- *Wind*
- *Storm Chasers*

Writing and Penmanship: Students are encouraged to hone their cursive writing skills, taking care to write legibly and neatly. This month, students will complete their first book - an Arthurian legend complete with illustrations. Students will also:

- Write well-constructed sentences across the curriculum
- Write paragraphs and identify topic sentences and supporting details

Spelling and Grammar: As students study spelling and grammar, they develop a 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. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will study the following words:

- *centum*, Latin—hundred (derivatives: cent; century; centimetre; percent)
- *mille*, Latin—thousand (derivatives: mile; millimetre; millennium; millipede)
- *pyro*, Greek—fire (derivatives: pyrotechnics; pyrotechnician; pyrometer)
- *ignis*, Latin—fire (igneous; ignite; ignition)
- *Vulcanus*, Latin—Vulcan—Roman god of fire (derivatives: volcano; volcanic; vulcanize)
- *hydros*, Greek—water (derivatives: hydroplane; dehydrate; hydrogen; hydroelectric)
- *aqua*, Latin—water (derivatives: aquarium; aqueduct; aquaculture; aquaplane)
- *bonus*, Latin—good (derivatives: bonus; bonny, boon; bounteous)
- *helios*, Greek—sun (derivatives: Helios; heliotrope; helium; helioscope)
- *sol*, Roman—sun (derivatives: solar; solarium; solstice; solar system)
- *luna*, Greek—moon (derivatives: lunar; Clair de Lune (FR); lunarium)

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.

French: Students have begun learning new vocabulary for the new play *Le chat et la lune*. They will begin answering questions about the story aloud and in writing. Students will:

- Learn new gestured vocabulary
- Answer questions about the play *Le chat et la lune*
- Learn to say the play as a class
- Work towards communicating spontaneously in French
- 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. Topics this month will include France and England at war, the war for the English throne, and the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal. Titles of study include:

- Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt
- Joan of Arc
- The Wars of the Roses
- The Princes in the Tower
- Ferdinand and Isabella Unite Spain
- Henry the Navigator, prince of Portugal

Mathematics: In May, students will continue to work with adding and subtracting decimals before moving on to study angles. Lesson topics covered this month include:

- Real-world problems with decimals
- Understanding and measuring angles
- Drawing angles to 180 degrees
- Turns and right angles

Science: Students will continue their investigation on sound waves and hearing as well as participate in a STEM program once per week over the next four weeks. Topics for sound and hearing include the following:

- 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 examine symbols and emblems of coats of arms. They will learn about colours and symbols used in shields during the middle ages. Students will:

- Complete illuminated letters
- Learn about shields and coats of arms
- Learn about texture and 3-dimensional media
- Create shields

Music: Grade 4 students are very busy preparing for the Innova spring concert on May 17th. Some concepts learned through their spring repertoire include:

- Playing the recorder
- Note reading
- 6/8 time signature
- Singing technique
- Singing in two-part harmony

Physical Education: This month, students will begin to train for track and field. Students will have an opportunity to choose the different areas that they wish to participate in and then train accordingly. Events include:

- 60, 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1500 metre races
- Ball throw
- Broad jump
- Long jump
- Triple jump

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.