

May 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 May, students will focus on the following "keys to understanding":

- Key Question: What is human nature?
- Key Idea: Humans have a dual nature – a physical body made from the dust of the earth, and a spiritual self, created in God's image. We also have a sin nature. Sin causes problems in our relationships with God, other humans, our world, and ourselves.
- Key Terms: psychology, psychological monism, naturalistic monism, transcendental monism, psychological dualism, category fallacy, unity of identity
- Key Verses: Genesis 1:27, Genesis 3:6, and 1 Peter 3:18

Bible Memorization: Throughout the year, Grade 8 students have been memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. During the month of May, students will perfect their memorization and recitation of a specific section to present at our spring concert on May 17th.

Literature / Writing: Having completed Harper Lee's classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, students will use their knowledge of the book to write a literary essay in response to the following prompt: *In chapter 10, Atticus says, "Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mocking bird."* Specific components of this literary essay will include:

- Planning an essay mind map
- Writing a clear introduction that includes a thesis statement and supporting points
- Incorporating one or more of the book's themes (prejudice, education, etc.)
- Supporting points with relevant examples from the text
- Proper use of transition words
- Writing a conclusion that restates the thesis statement and supporting points using different words
- Writing in the present tense and in the third person
- Maintaining a formal tone
- Correct conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization)

Grammar: In grammar this month, students will continue to 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:

- Vir (L): virile, virago, virtue, virtual, virtuoso
- Femina (L): female, feminine, femininity, effeminate, feminism
- Infans/Infantis (L): infant, infancy, infantile, infantry
- Pais/Paidos (G): pediatrician, encyclopedia, pedagogue, pedagogy, paideia

French: This month, students will complete their memorization of the play *Louis la grenouille* and present the play. Students will continue to learn grammar principles and practice writing complete sentences with new vocabulary words. Students will:

- Continue the story of *Louis la grenouille* using familiar vocabulary

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.

- Apply grammar principles in speech and writing
- Continue to practice answering questions orally and in writing
- Continue to memorize Hebrews 4:16

History/Geography: In history this month, students will continue a unit titled "Wars of Modern Times and the Hope of Mankind, 1948 – Date Unknown". May's lessons will include the following titles:

- 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
- The Breakup of Yugoslavia
- Nelson Mandela: President of South Africa

Mathematics: Students will study statistics and probability. A line of best fit can be used to model linear association of bivariate quantitative data. A two-way table displays the relative frequencies of categorical data. Students will study the following:

- Scatter plots
- Modeling linear associations
- Two-way tables
- Probability of compound events
- Independent and dependent events

Science: Students will finish their Earth and Space unit and then study Ecology. God has given us this earth, and we will study various cycles, systems, and other aspects of our ecosystem which include:

- Nitrogen, carbon, and water cycle
- Populations
- Biodiversity
- Bioaccumulation

Visual arts: This month in visual arts, students will learn about optical illusions and the work of M.C. Escher. Students will examine tessellations and learn about using value to convey depth. Students will:

- Complete their figure sculptures in motion
- Examine the works of M.C. Escher
- Create a tessellation
- Learn pen and ink techniques

Music: Grade 8 students are very busy preparing for the Innova spring concert on May 17th. Some of the concepts learned through the spring repertoire are:

- Ukulele ensemble playing
- Note reading
- Singing technique
- 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 they wish to participate in and then train accordingly. Events include:

- 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1500 metre races
- Ball throw
- Long jump
- Triple jump
- Shotput
- Discus

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.