

June 2018

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 4

Mrs. Cheryl Smith

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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 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 a unit assessment on the life of David, students will study the life and reign of King Solomon, David’s son and successor. Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom, and God granted it to him. He built the temple which was planned by his father David. Even with all of his wisdom and wealth, Solomon made some bad choices that impacted not only his own life but that of the nation of Israel. Memory work for this unit is Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22; Proverbs 2:9-10 ESV. Lesson topics include:

- Solomon chooses wisdom
- Solomon’s temple
- Solomon’s kingdom
- Wealth and money
- Solomon’s bad choices

Literature: Students will complete the non-fiction unit begun in May before selecting one of the William Shakespeare’s plays that have been written in story format for younger students by Andrew Matthews & Tony Ross. These complement the history focus of the month. Title selections include some of the following well-known plays:

- *Julius Caesar*
- *King Lear*
- *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
- *As You Like It*
- *Anthony and Cleopatra*
- *Richard III*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*

Writing and Penmanship: Students are encouraged to hone their cursive writing skills, taking care to write legibly and neatly. Students will be introduced to the artform of play writing. Using the selected Shakespearean story, students will write dialogue for an important scene in the story.

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. This month, students will focus on:

- Correctly use their spelling words in well-constructed sentences
- Learn the spelling rules associated with the assigned word list
- Define adverbs
- Identify and use adverbs in sentences

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:

- *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*, Latin—sun (derivatives: solar; solarium; solstice; solar system)
- *luna*, Greek—moon (derivatives: lunar; Clair de Lune (FR); lunarium)
- *dia*, Greek—through, between, across, apart (derivatives: diadem; diagnosis; diagonal; diamond)
- *trans*, Latin—across, over, beyond, through (derivatives: transport; transaction; transfer; transform)
- *geo*, Greek—earth (derivatives: geography; geology; geometry)
- *terra*, Latin—land (derivatives: territory; terrace; terrarium)

French: This month in French, students will continue to practice the new play *Le chat et la lune*. Students will learn new gestured vocabulary and apply new vocabulary in spontaneous conversation. Students will:

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.

- Continue to learn new gestured vocabulary
- Practice saying the play as a class and reading the play aloud
- Converse in French during classroom and partner activities
- Continue to 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. England's greatest queen and England's greatest playwright will be introduced this month. Topics covered include:

- The queen that almost wasn't
- Good Queen Bess (Elizabeth I)
- William Shakespeare
- A brief overview of Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*

Mathematics: Students have moved from studying decimals, fractions, angles, and symmetry to focusing on the properties of squares and rectangles. Lessons continue to review previously learned concepts. New concepts include:

- Finding area and perimeter using a formula
- Breaking up composite figures into squares and rectangles to find unknown angle measures and side lengths
- Tessellations are repeated shapes covering a plane or surface without gaps or overlaps to form patterns (i.e. the diamond shape)

Science: In science this month, students will learn about rocks and minerals as well as Earth's structure. Students will explore the following questions:

- What is a mineral?
- What are rocks like?
- How do rocks change form?
- How do fossils form?
- How do we use rocks and minerals?
- What is Earth's structure like?
- How do weathering and erosion change Earth's surface?

Visual Arts: This month in visual arts, students will begin to create their own individual shields based on the coats of arms that they have designed. Students have learned the symbolic meanings behind colours, animals, and symbols found on medieval coats of arms. Students will:

- Complete their own coat of arms
- Create a shield based on their coat of arms
- Learn about texture and relief sculpture

Music: In the last few weeks of music classes, Grade 4 students will review concepts learned this year as well as continue working through the recorder curriculum. Students will also complete a critical listening and history unit. Topics include:

- New notes and repertoire for recorder
- History of composers
- Instruments of the orchestra
- Critical listening
- Movement in music

Physical Education: This month, students will learn to play Ultimate. Ultimate is an engaging game utilizing skill and endurance. Students will be taught the following:

- Rules
- Throwing techniques
- Guarding
- Strategies

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

Upcoming Events

June 1 and 14 – Pizza Lunch

June 5-12 – Dominican Republic Mission Trip

June 8 – Battle of the Books (at Innova) AND Pasta Lunch

June 16 – Family Picnic – At the Makarenkos'

June 18 – Nobility Day

June 19 – Last Day of Class – Noon Dismissal – Term 3 Reports Go Home **AND**
Grade 8 Graduation

June 20-22 – PA Days - ACCS Conference for Administration

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