

September 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova

Melissa Wetzel 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 is happily married to her wonderful husband, Lawren.



Melissa Wetzel
Teacher

Grade 1



Grade 1
Mrs. Melissa Wetzel
mwetzel@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.

Christian Education: Grade 1 students will begin the year studying a unit titled "The Christian Life" with a focus on the book of James followed by a unit on intertestamentary times. Topics include:

- Wisdom from Heaven
- Being quick and slow
- Hear, believe, and do
- Taming the tongue
- The power of prayer
- The promised Saviour
- The beginning of the Greek Rule
- Greek/Roman impact
- Pharisees and Sadducees
- Essenes and Zealots

Reading Fluency: At the beginning of the school year, Grade 1 students' reading fluency is assessed and reading instruction is individualized. Students will build and refine oral reading fluency and reading comprehension skills. Throughout the year, students will:

- Apply phonics skills to reading selections
- Read clearly with expression observing punctuation
- Identify author, character, setting, and plot
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Read for meaning, predict outcomes, and respond to content questions and draw inferences from the text
- Sequence and retell stories
- Relate story events to personal experiences
- Identify genre as fiction or non-fiction, fantasy, folktale or poetry
- Identify biblical character traits and moral messages and lessons in literature

Literature, and Vocabulary: In the month of September, students will spend time reading and discussing stories such as *Caps for Sale*, *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Bedtime for Frances*. For each story, students will focus on:

- Developing appropriate listening skills
- Identifying the main characters, setting, and lesson of the story
- Predicting the story outcome
- Writing about the story
- Recognizing, writing, and illustrating the beginning, middle and end of the story

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:

- Read all 26 single letter phonograms and say the correct sounds
- Spell all 26 single letter phonograms from hearing the sounds
- Demonstrate proper letter formation using proper posture, paper position, pencil grip, and pressure.
- Learn and practice lower case letters: a, c, j, d, g, o, qu, e, l, b, f, m, h, k, p, and r.

Grammar and Writing: Students will focus on understanding and practice writing proper sentences. This month, students will:

- Know the elements of a sentence
- Begin a sentence with a capital letter
- Understand and properly punctuate the four types of sentences
- Learn the sentence song

Latin: Students will begin this year with a unit titled "The Body." This unit will introduce students to Latin words using songs and chants to help children learn Latin in an enjoyable and engaging way. Students will learn the Latin words for:

- Hand, foot, head, body
- Face, eye, ear, nose, mouth

History: This year, students will study Canada, focusing on Canada's geography, symbols, early settlers, and communities. This month, students will learn the following:

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.

- The Canada geography song
- Canadian symbols
- Canada's national anthem
- Provinces and territories
- The Great Lakes
- The oceans
- Mapping skills

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:

- Review counting objects from 0 to 10
- Read and write 0 to 10 in numbers and words
- Compare numbers using the words greater than or less than
- Practice making number patterns using number cubes
- Investigate number bonds
- Learn that a part consists of one of two or more smaller parts that make up a whole

Science: Grade 1 students will begin the year with a unit titled "Scientific Investigations" followed by "Investigating the Senses" and explore the following questions:

- How do we do science?
- How do we measure length?
- How do we use a ruler?
- How do we measure temperature?
- How do we measure how much a container holds?
- What are your senses?
- How do you see?

Visual Arts: Students will explore the work of Canadian artists in visual arts this year. This month, they will begin learning about colour theory and they will create a colour wheel. Students will learn about mixing primary colours and the difference between cool and warm colours. Areas of study will include:

- The painting *Cosmos* by Molly Lamb Bobak
- Warm and cool colours
- Primary, secondary and tertiary colours

Music: Music is perhaps the most widely used form of artistic expression in the world and it is such a joy to have the chance to teach the tools of musical expression to the Grade 1 class this year! In September, students will revisit some of the basics learned last year as well as introduce some new concepts that will be built on through the year. Areas of study will include:

- Pulse
- Melodic contour
- Review musical opposites
- Vocal technique
- Crescendo/decrescendo
- SLM - echo and composition
- Stick Notation - reading and composition
- Ritardando and accelerando
- Same and different phrases
- Composer: Chopin
- Listening: *Revolutionary Etude* by Chopin
- Orchestra: Introduction to the orchestra and sections

Physical Education: During physical education classes, students will develop agility, flexibility, endurance, and gross motor skills. They will be graded based on participation, respectful attitude, sportsmanship, and physical skills demonstrated in class. This month, students will develop ball-handling skills. Topics include:

- Bouncing with one hand while stationary
- Bouncing on the move
- Bouncing on the move in relays
- Bouncing on the move with obstacle courses
- Bouncing in a skill circuit

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

Upcoming Events

September 4 - First Day of Classes

September 8 - Back to School Social at the Makarenko's – 12-2 p.m.

September 24 – Picture Day – Lifetouch AND

Gr. 7 Immunization Clinic – York Region Public Health

September 25 - ACSI Coed Soccer (Gr. 4-6)

September 27 – Community Safety Village Field Trip (JK-2)

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