

September 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 6

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

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Adele first encountered classical education through reading Susan Wise Bauer's book *The Well-Trained Mind*. While home educating her three children, she quickly adopted the classical method and her enthusiasm increased as she saw the fruit of the methodology in her children's progress. As one of the founding families of Innova Academy, Adele is thrilled to see the vision of a classical, Christian school become a reality. She currently serves as teaching vice principal, teaching Grades 5 and 6 at Innova. Besides home educating, Adele has taught Grades 5 and 6, Kindergarten to Grade 8 music, and worked as a special education resource and enrichment teacher in both public and private schools.



Adele McLaughlin  
Teaching Vice  
Principal

Grade 5 and  
Grade 6

Grade 6 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:** This year, the Grade 6 class will be memorizing the book of 1 John! We will also be studying the Gospels, noting their differences, similarities and how they each point us to the same amazing news. Lastly, we will be taking a deeper look at the Catechism and the hope these truths bring to our heart today. This month will include:

- An overview of the Gospels and their purpose
- A deeper understanding of the catechism questions, 'What is our only hope in life and death?', 'What is God?' and 'How many persons are there in God?'
- Memorize 1 John 1:1-10

**Literature and Writing:** Students will begin the school year enjoying C. S. Lewis' classic novel, *The Magician's Nephew*. Our study will include the following:

- Learn vocabulary from the novel
- Demonstrate comprehension of the text, draw inferences, and engage in meaningful discussions
- Explore literary devices
- Discuss biblical allusions and application
- Identify the structure of a well-written paragraph
- Respond to literary prompts, focusing on developing effective paragraphs

**Spelling:** Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and understanding and applying spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Review the 70 phonograms
- Review and practice the 1-1-1 rule
- Analyze weekly spelling words drawn from the class list and student writing

**Grammar:** Grammar study develops students' awareness and understanding of how the English language is structured. As students work through the grammar program, they apply their knowledge to writing in all subject areas. This month's Grammar study focuses on sentences including:

- Types of sentences
- Capitalization rules
- Complete and simple subject and predicate
- Diagramming subjects, verbs, and verb phrases

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. This month's study focuses on the following:

- Greek and Latin words related to "water"
- Water-related English derivatives

**French:** Students will begin the year by reviewing important vocabulary that they learned last year. They will be introduced to the story of *Boucles Violettes* and learn important vocabulary to answer questions about the play. Students will begin reading short books to further develop their vocabulary. Students will:

- Review important vocabulary
- Learn and begin to say the story of *Boucles Violettes*
- Read four short books and learn vocabulary to improve reading comprehension
- Memorize the first of 10 call and response statements which explain the foundations of Christianity

**History/Geography:** This year, students will delve into world history spanning 1500 to 1800. This month, students will explore the following topics:

- The meaning of the Renaissance

## Grade 6 – 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.

- The significance of the invention of Gutenberg's printing press
- The Reformation
- King Henry VIII

**Mathematics:** Students in Grade 6 will begin the school year by studying numbers in following ways:

- Common factors and multiples
- Prime factorization
- Squares, cubes, and their roots

**Science:** In September, students will examine cells - the building blocks of life. They will explore the following questions:

- What is a cell?
- What is in a cell?
- What are the different types of cells and how do we identify them?

**Visual Arts:** Students will be studying the art of the Renaissance over the course of this year. They will begin by studying the masters of the Italian Renaissance and the developments that they brought to the world of art. Students will investigate the use of perspective by famous artists and apply their knowledge to create drawings with accurate perspective. Areas of study will include:

- Masters of the Italian Renaissance
- One- and two-point perspective
- Creating the illusion of space

**Music:** In the Grade 6 music class, students will learn how to play the ukulele! Why ukulele? This versatile instrument has a mellow tone, it can play both melody and harmony, it is easy to learn, you can sing and play at the same time, and kids love it! We will use the ukulele to teach music literacy and ensemble playing as well as ear training. In addition, the Grade 6 class will continue to develop choral skills. This month will consist mostly of review and preparation for more complex musical techniques and theories in the coming months. Areas covered will include:

- Review solfege scale in major and minor
- Review stick notation of whole, half, quarter, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests
- Learn sharps, flats, and the order of each on the staff
- Review time signatures (2/4, 3/4, 4/4)
- Unison and part singing in solfege using canons
- Review musical staff: treble clef and notes from G3 to G5
- Echo short rhythms and solfege patterns
- Define terms: forte, piano, crescendo, decrescendo, ritardando, accelerando
- Review the sections of the orchestra
- Renaissance composers - Josquin de Prez and John Dowland

**Physical Education:** For the month of September, students will practice and train for the upcoming cross-country meet. This month, they will focus on the following areas:

- Pacing and breathing
- Developing endurance
- Working toward and monitoring progress
- Technique for running hills

*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) - Stouffville

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.