

September 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: This year, students will discuss and memorize Romans 8. They will also consider the importance of spending time daily in God's Word and growing in spiritual disciplines. This month, students will:

- Understand the holiness and love of God
- Understand Scripture by studying the context of the passage including the author, audience, and purpose
- Learn the importance of developing spiritual disciplines focusing on the discipline of prayer

Logic: Students will be introduced to *The Fallacy Detective* by Nathaniel and Hans Bluehorn. Throughout the year, they will explore thirty-eight lessons on how to recognize logical fallacies, put a higher value on good reasoning, and learn how to avoid fallacies in our own reasoning. This month, students will focus on the following:

- The use of logic in day to day life
- Biblical principles that establish how to lovingly and wisely use logic
- The importance of listening carefully to opposing viewpoints

Literature: Students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Hannah Hurnard's *Hinds' Feet on High Places*. This is a beautiful allegory dramatizing the yearning of God's children to grow closer to Him with an understanding that an intimate relationship with God requires that we seek Him daily and focus our lives around His direction and will. Objectives for this unit include:

- Understand allegory
- Analyze characters and themes
- Understand author's use of literary devices
- Learn and implement new vocabulary
- Discuss and apply biblical truths

Writing & Rhetoric: In *Writing and Rhetoric*, students will be introduced to the concepts of encomium and vituperation and how they can be used in a persuasive essay. This month's lessons include:

- The differences between a biography and an autobiography while asking the question, "Which can be more trusted?"
- Why and how writers use ethos to persuade their audience
- Hyperbole as an effective rhetorical device
- The importance of a good thesis statement

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 unit will focus on the following types of punctuation:

- Seven rules for using commas
- Using the apostrophe for possession and omission
- When to use a colon and semicolon
- When to use a dash and a hyphen

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 "good" and "bad"
- English derivatives related to "good" and "bad"

French: Students will begin the year by reviewing important vocabulary and grammar principles that they learned last year. They will be introduced to the vocabulary and songs for the play *Un frère pénible*. Students will begin reading short stories in French and respond to comprehension questions. Students will:

- Review important vocabulary and grammar principles
- Learn and begin to say the story of *Un frère pénible*
- Read short French stories together as a class and in pairs
- Memorize the first of 10 statements explaining the gospel

History/Geography: Students will begin the year studying both Canadian and American history to understand how the two are closely related. Specific lessons during the month of September include:

- Canadian History: A French colony in a British empire
- The peoples of Quebec – British policy in Quebec

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.

- Dealing with different groups – The First Nations and the British, The Royal Proclamation of 1763, changing times and events
- The British and the Thirteen Colonies – The Thirteen Colonies in 1750, The Seven Years' War and the question of taxation, resistance to the new taxes
- Quebec and the American Revolution – The Quebec Act of 1774, The American Declaration of Independence in 1776, The United Empire Loyalists, The Treaty of Paris in 1783

American History: The American Revolution

- Part 1: Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, First Continental Congress, Patrick Henry's fiery speech, Paul Revere's ride, Battles of Lexington and Concord, Second Continental Congress, Colonial defeat at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, and the Declaration of Independence
- Part 2: Washington Crosses the Delaware, The Flag unfolds, victory at Saratoga, the Winter at Valley Forge, Treaty of Alliance with France, The Betrayal of Benedict Arnold, Articles of Confederation, Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, Treaty of Paris, and the Constitution of the United States of America

Mathematics: Students will begin the year studying exponents. They will explore the following:

- Products and quotients of powers
- Power of a power
- Zero and negative powers
- Real world problems with squares and cubes

Science: This year, Grade 8 students will develop an appreciation for God's creation and learn to be good stewards of creation through the study of earth sciences. For the month of September, topics include:

- Mapping techniques
- Stewardship of the earth
- Matter and minerals of the earth

Visual Arts: Students will examine the work of Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin and Paul Gauguin. They will explore the use of colour during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Students will use complementary colours to intensify colour hues and create bold, expressive works of art. Areas of study include:

- Complementary and analogous colours
- *Still Life with Mangoes* by Paul Gauguin
- *The Copper Drinking Fountain* by Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin
- Mixing and planning colours for a work of art

Music: Grade 8 students will have the opportunity to delve deeper into musical concepts and embark on some new projects. Perhaps the most exciting addition is the incorporation of handchimes as their primary instrument. Handchimes are beautiful to listen to and require an intense amount of musical knowledge, intuition, and teamwork to play successfully. We will also continue studying music history, theory, and choir. Topics this month include:

- Review of the solfege scale
- Review of stick notation of whole, half, quarter, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes and rests
- Review of sharps and flats (order on staff and key signatures)
- Review of time signatures (2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8)
- Unison and part singing
- Review of musical staff: treble clef and notes from G3 to A6 and learn bass clef notes C3 to G3
- Review terms: forte, piano, crescendo, decrescendo, ritardando, accelerando
- Define terms: damp, tie, L.V., R
- Handchimes: history and repertoire, beginning technique
- Listening: *Music Alone Shall Live* arranged by Sondra Tucker and *Let it Go* for handchimes

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
- Techniques 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.