

September 2018

The Month Ahead

At Innova



Junior Kindergarten
Mrs. Melinda Morris
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Melinda holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Psychology from the University of Windsor and a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University. She is passionate about instilling a love of learning into the hearts of children and encouraging and inspiring them to be confident leaders. Using music, art, drama, and many visual resources, Melinda loves teaching in creative ways to engage children. After reading the book, *Shaping Hearts and Minds* by Monica and Shawn Whatley, Melinda is excited to bring the classical model of teaching to her classroom. Melinda enjoys travelling, meeting new people, and eating a variety of international foods. She is active in her church and serves in various capacities on the worship and prayer team as well as in local outreach and evangelism.



Melinda Morris
Teacher

Junior
Kindergarten

Our Junior Kindergarten program is designed to introduce children to the joy of learning through theme-based units. Students will listen to wonderful selections of classic children's literature and respond through engaging hands-on activities. We are committed to developing the whole child by providing a pleasant environment for children to take chances and explore. Above all, we strive to lead children to taste the joys of being a child of God and grow in their understanding of serving Him.

Christian Education: Junior kindergarten students will begin their study of Scripture with an introduction to the love and majesty of God. This month, topics include:

- Beginning of the world
- Creation
- The Fall
- Noah

Memory verse: Genesis 1:1-4a "In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. And God saw that the light was good." (ESV)

Language Arts: Each month, students will explore stories, poems, songs, chants, and hands-on activities related to the monthly themes. This month's junior kindergarten themes include: "Welcome to Junior Kindergarten" and "The Five Senses". This month, students will:

- Listen to books during read aloud times, including *Chicken in School* by Adam Lehrhaupt and *The Alphabet Book* by P.D. Eastman
- Discuss the characters in the stories
- Identify the setting
- Make predictions about what they think will happen at the end of each story
- Identify letters and their corresponding sounds for /b/, /c/, /d/, /f/, /g/, /h/, /j/, /k/
- Practice proper pencil grip and do various fun hands-on activities to develop fine motor skills
- Practice proper letter formation of the following: A, B, C, D, E, F

World Cultures and Geography: Junior kindergarten students will embark upon an exciting journey around the world. This unit will give children a basic understanding of geography and where they live in relation to the world. Students will:

- Learn what positional words are and how to use them to locate something
- Learn how to make a map using simple map symbols
- Learn what a globe is and how it's different from a map
- Draw a map of their classroom
- Make a city using blocks

Mathematics: Students will learn to recognize and say their numbers through songs and chants and use various tactile means to practice proper number formation. This month, we will focus on the following:

JK – 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.

- Counting 1 to 5 using concrete materials
- Identifying the numbers 1 to 5
- Printing 1 to 5
- Sorting colours

Science: Your child's natural curiosity will be fostered as they investigate what science is and begin to explore their five senses. They will enjoy engaging in a variety of science activities and experiments related to their senses. Students will explore the following questions:

- What is science?
- What is a scientist?
- What does a scientist do?
- What are our five senses?

Visual Arts: This month, students will be introduced to line art and the difference between 2-dimensional artwork and sculptures. Students will:

- Learn the different types of lines
- Learn to draw different types of lines
- Create 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional artwork using different types of lines

Music: Music class is a time when children learn to express themselves through the art of music and explore the many forms of musical expression. I am so excited to begin this journey with the junior kindergarten class! In September, we will begin learning the basics of music including the following:

- Singing voice vs. speaking voice
- Pulse
- High/low
- Listening - *Syncopated Clock* by Leroy Anderson
- Instruments: strings

Physical Education: During physical education time, students will have the opportunity to develop spatial awareness, balance, and coordination using their bodies and a variety of equipment. Throughout the year, students are led to develop good sportsmanship while playing games with their classmates. This month, topics are:

- Bouncing a ball
- Bouncing and catching a ball
- Travelling while bouncing a ball
- Bouncing a ball to a partner

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.