

October 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
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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: In October, Grade 1 students will focus on the book of James and a unit titled "Intertestamentary Times". Topics include:

- The promised Saviour
- The beginning of 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
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions and draw inferences from the text
- Sequence and retell stories
- Identify characters, setting, problem, and solution
- Predict outcomes
- Relate story events to personal experiences
- Identify author, character, setting, and plot
- 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 October, students will enjoy Thanksgiving poetry. Students will also read and discuss a variety of classic short stories such as *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Owl Moon*. Students will continue listening to *Charlotte's Web* during our daily read aloud time. 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 are 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
- Read, spell, and know the sounds of the following multi-letter phonograms: *sh, th, oo, er, ee*
- Learn and practice the following lower-case letters: *s, t, u, w, n, m, v, x, y, z*
- Demonstrate proper letter formation using proper posture, paper position, pencil grip, and pressure

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

- Write imperative and exclamatory sentences
- Learn and use the conjunctions *and, or, but*
- Learn and use the prepositions *to, from, before, after*

Latin: Songs and chants help children learn Latin in an enjoyable and engaging way. Students will learn and spend time each day reviewing greeting words and words about making friends. In October, students will begin a unit titled "How Are You?" Students will learn phrases including:

- How are you?

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.

- I am fine
- I am great
- I am terrible

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

- The "Canada" geography song
- Canadian symbols
- Canada's national anthem
- Mapping skills
- Using street maps and the compass rose

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 begin a new unit titled "Addition Facts to 10". Students will:

- Count on to add numbers
- Use number bonds to add in any order
- Write and solve addition sentences
- Tell addition stories about pictures

Science: In October, Grade 1 students will begin a unit titled "Investigating the Senses" and explore the following questions through a variety of hands-on activities:

- What are your senses?
- How do you see?
- What happens when people can't see?
- How do you hear?
- What happens when people can't hear?

Visual Arts: This month, students will learn about different types of space. Students will examine the work of Norval Morriseau, a Canadian artist, to discover the difference between positive and negative space. Students will create a positive and negative relief print of items from nature. Students will:

- Complete their study of colour theory
- Examine the difference between positive and negative space
- Learn about the history of printmaking and printmaking techniques
- Continue memorizing the periods of art history

Music: In music class, Grade 1 students will explore more of the foundations of music through singing, moving, listening, and playing Orff instruments. Topics include:

- Rhythmic and melodic ostinatos
- Major and minor tonalities
- Music notation: staff, quarter note, half note, quarter rest
- Note names: treble clef A5-G5
- The orchestra: conductor
- Opera

Physical Education: During physical education classes, students will develop agility, flexibility, endurance, and gross motor skills. This month, students will continue to develop ball-handling skills. Topics include:

- Throwing and catching at various distances
- Proper technique for underhand throwing
- Throwing at targets using beanbags

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

Upcoming Events

October 4 – Exordium AND Curriculum Night – At Innova

October 5 – PA Day – No School for Students

October 8 – Thanksgiving Day – No School

October 10 – Parent Volunteer Information Session – South Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.

October 12 & 26 – Pizza Lunch

October 15 – Fair Glen Overnight Retreat (Gr. 5-9)

October 16 – Fair Glen Field Trip (Gr. 3-9)

October 18 – Cross Country Meet – Dagmar Ski Resort

October 31 – Walk Through History Day

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