

October 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 6

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

amclaughlin@innovaacademy.ca

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, Grade 6 students will be memorizing the book of 1 John! They will also be studying the Gospels, noting their differences, similarities, and how they each point to the same amazing news. Lastly, students will take a deeper look at the Catechism and the hope these truths bring to our hearts today. This month, students will:

- Discuss the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist and of Jesus
- Reflect on the catechism questions, 'How and why did God create us?', 'What else did God create?' and 'How can we glorify God'

**Literature and Writing:** This month, students will explore short stories with the theme "lessons learned". Students will contribute meaningfully to group discussions by explaining ideas, building upon others' comments, and asking questions. Students will:

- Describe characters based on speech, actions, and interactions with others
- Identify character traits and motivations
- Identify themes and foreshadowing
- Interpret symbolism
- Compare and contrast literary selections and characters
- Continue to focus on writing well-constructed paragraphs, focusing on descriptive and narrative 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 and practice the ie/ei 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:

- Distinguishing between common and proper nouns
- Understanding independent and dependent clauses
- Identifying and correcting run-on sentences
- Diagramming interrogative sentences

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

- Learn the Latin words for "see", "look", and "hear" and the Greek word for "sound"
- Learn English derivatives related to the Latin and Greek words discussed

**French:** In French this month, students will continue to review gestured vocabulary, learn songs in French, and read the play *Boucles Violettes*. Students will:

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts
- Continue to practice songs and raps
- Begin practicing and memorize the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Read short books and learn vocabulary to improve reading comprehension
- Memorize the second of 10 call and response statements which explain the foundations of Christianity

## 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.

**History/Geography:** This year, students will delve into world history spanning 1500 to 1800. This month, students will finish their study of the Reformation, complete a cumulative assignment, and prepare a presentation for Walk through History day. Topics discussed this month include:

- John Calvin
- Queen Mary Tudor
- Queen Elizabeth
- Copernicus
- Galileo

**Mathematics:** Students in Grade 6 will explore the concept of negative numbers and the significance of the absolute value of a number. They will apply what they have learned through this exploration to achieve the following goals:

- Understanding the relationship of negative numbers to positive numbers
- Representing, comparing, and ordering positive and negative numbers on a number line
- Utilizing negative numbers to represent real-world quantities and situations

**Science:** In science this month, students will finish exploring the basics of genetics and then begin a unit on nutrition. They will discuss the following this month:

- Healthy lifestyles
- Reading and interpreting food labels
- Understanding the basic building blocks of life

**Visual Arts:** Students will continue exploring Renaissance artwork by examining the work of Leonardo DaVinci. They will draw landscapes using one-point perspective and learn watercolour painting techniques. Students will:

- Complete Renaissance style portraits
- Continue to learn and apply techniques for drawing 3-dimensional spaces
- Examine the works of Leonardo DaVinci and Raphael
- Learn and practice watercolour painting techniques

**Music:** In music, the Grade 6 class will continue developing their skills playing the ukulele and building choral technique. Topics include:

- Two-part singing
- Terms: andante, allegro, presto, largo
- Treble and bass clef notes
- History: Baroque era
- Composer: Scarlatti

**Physical Education:** This month, students will continue training for the upcoming cross-country meet, then they will begin volleyball. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Stance and form
- Bumping
- Setting
- Serving

*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.