

November 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



## At Innova

Grade 1  
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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 the month of November, Grade 1 students will memorize Psalm 1. Students will continue a unit titled "A Saviour is Born" focusing on the promise of the coming Messiah. They will also begin a unit titled "Jesus Begins His Ministry". Topics include:

- John the Baptist and our need for repentance
- Jesus' baptism
- Jesus' temptation
- Jesus calls His disciples

**Reading Fluency:** Grade 1 students' reading instruction is individualized based on individual reading assessments. Students will build and refine oral reading fluency and reading comprehension skills by reading in both large and small groups, individually, and at home. 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
- Draw inferences from the text

**Literature, and Vocabulary:** In the month of November, students will read and discuss stories from *Classics for Young Readers* as well as the story of *Danny the Dinosaur*. Students will also continue listening to *Charlotte's Web* in our daily read aloud time then begin *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Students will:

- Develop appropriate listening skills
- Identify the main characters, setting, and lesson of the story
- Predict the story outcome
- Write about the story
- Recognize, write, and illustrate 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, spell, and know the sounds of the following multi letter phonograms: *sh, th, oo, er, ee*
- Demonstrate proper letter formation using proper posture, paper position, pencil grip, and pressure.
- Learn 10 spelling words each week
- Create 10 sentences each week using their spelling words

**Grammar and Writing:** In the month of November, students will continue a unit on nouns. Students will:

- Differentiate between common and proper nouns
- Identify the names and order of the days of the week and months of the year
- Write months and days as proper nouns with capital letters
- Identify and use commas in dates in complete sentences

**Latin:** Songs and chants help children learn Latin in an enjoyable and engaging way. In the month of November, students will begin Chapter 6 titled "People" and Chapter 7 titled "Classroom Items". Students will learn Latin words and phrases such as:

- Boy, girl, man, woman
- Table, chair, pencil, book

## 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.

**History:** This year, students are studying Canada, focusing on Canada's geography, symbols, early settlers, and communities. This month, students will explore the properties of maps while focusing on each province and territory in detail. Students will focus on:

- Canada's physical map
- Appalachians and lowlands
- The Canadian Shield and Arctic
- The plains and mountains

**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. In the month of November, students will continue a unit titled "Subtraction to 10". Students will:

- Explore different ways to subtract numbers
- Create their own subtraction word problems
- Make fact families

**Science:** In the month of November, students will continue a unit titled "Investigating the Senses". Students will explore the following questions:

- How do you hear? And, what happens when people can't hear?
- How do you smell?
- How do you taste?
- How do you feel (touch)?
- How do you use all your senses?

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will learn about printmaking and painting techniques. They will continue to explore the difference between positive and negative space. Students will:

- Learn about the history of printmaking and printmaking techniques
- Summarize their study of colour theory
- Continue memorizing the periods of art history

**Music:** In music class, the Grade 1 students will build on their knowledge of Orff technique and singing. They will also review music notation, form, and conducting. Lessons will include:

- Mallet technique
- Simple borduns on Orff instruments
- Vocal ostinatos
- Christmas repertoire
- Music notation: review rhythm and C4-G5
- Orchestra: review sections and conducting
- Genre: Ballet - The Nutcracker

**Physical Education:** During physical education time, students will have opportunities 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's topics include:

- Throwing and catching to a partner using medium sized balls and beanbags
- Using beanbags and throwing at a target
- Throwing and catching on the move

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

## Upcoming Events

November 1 – Walk Through History Day – Parents Welcome at 8:30 a.m.

November 7 – Remembrance Day Chapel – Parents Welcome

November 9 – Pizza Lunch AND Interim Reports Go Home

November 15 – Interim Parent/Teacher Check In

November 20 – Prayer Meeting – Parents Welcome in Room A at 8:30 a.m.

November 23 – Pizza Lunch

November 30 – Exordium – Parents Welcome

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