

November 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 month, Grade 6 students will continue their study of the Gospels with a focus on John the Baptist and Jesus' birth to prepare their hearts for the Christmas season. Students will:

- Study and discuss the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus
- Reflect on the catechism questions, 'How can we glorify God?' and 'What does the law of God require?'

**Literature and Writing:** Students will read and analyze poems by famous authors such as William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, and William Blake. As they study the literary devices and structure of the poems, students will apply what they have learned to composing their own poems. Following the poetry unit, students will read, discuss, and write about the historical novel *I, Juan de Pareja*, which tells the story of an African slave living in Spain in the early seventeenth century. Topics focused on this month include:

- Imagery
- Poetic devices (personification, simile, metaphor, alliteration, repetition, refrain)
- Stanza, rhyme scheme, rhythm (iambic, trochee, anapest), metre
- Literary response (comprehension, inference, opinion, making connections)

**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 apply the 'e dropping' 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:

- Prepositional phrases used as adjectives and adverbs
- Comma rules

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

- Learn English derivatives related to the Latin words *mem* (mindful, recall)
- Learn English derivatives related to the Greek word *ology* (study)

**French:** This month, students will continue to learn new vocabulary and begin learning important grammar principles. Students will:

- Continue to work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Practice songs and raps
- Begin rehearsing the play *Boucles Violettes* in small groups
- Continue reading short books and learning vocabulary to improve reading comprehension
- Memorize the second and third gospel of 10 gospel statements

## 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. Topics discussed this month include:

- New ventures to the Americas – Sir Walter Raleigh and the New World
- The Lost Colony
- Empires Collide – Spain and England's War (The Spanish Armada)
- The world at the end of the sixteenth century

**Mathematics:** This month, students will apply their knowledge of division and multiplication of fractions and decimals to solve multi-step real-world problems. Students will then move on to the next unit which will extend concepts learned with fractions to ratios. Topics covered in this unit include:

- Interpreting ratios given in fraction form
- Writing equivalent ratios and ratios in simplest form
- Comparing ratios
- Solving ratio problems that involve:
  - two and three quantities
  - two sets of ratios
  - changing ratios

**Science:** Students this month will continue discussing nutrition and examine our cells' needs for nutrients. Students will:

- Understand the six nutrients
- Classify macro and micronutrients
- Discuss a balanced diet

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will complete their watercolour landscape paintings. Students will learn about developments in art during the Northern Renaissance period. Students will:

- Practice and apply watercolour techniques
- Examine art of the Northern Renaissance
- Learn about the history of printmaking and printmaking techniques
- Begin carving printmaking blocks

**Music:** In music, the Grade 6 class will begin preparing both choral and ukulele repertoire for the Christmas concert in December. They will also memorize key signatures and learn new musical terms. Topics include:

- Key signatures: up to seven sharps and seven flats
- Terms: grave, moderato, prestissimo, vivace
- Choral techniques

**Physical Education:** This month, students will continue to develop their volleyball skills. They will focus on improving their performance in the following areas:

- Bumping
- Setting
- Serving
- Game strategy

*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.