

November 2018

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to the grammar stage of classical education's trivium. Melissa completed her teaching certification and Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and she currently serves as the Grade 7/8 teacher at Innova Academy. When she's not teaching, or involved with church, Melissa enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two boys. You can usually find them at a hockey rink, playing catch, or doing something active together.



Melissa Gazmin
Teacher

Grade 7 and
Grade 8



Grade 8 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 8 students will look at the goodness and power of God. Students will:

- Discuss the spiritual discipline of 'study'
- Continue to consider the meaning of biblical community
- Discuss the seriousness of gossip and how it affects relationships
- Write a community covenant to work towards God honouring friendships
- Share a brief morning devotion with their fellow classmates

Logic: Students will continue to learn how to identify logical fallacies using *The Fallacy Detective* curriculum. This month, students will continue to focus on *red herring* fallacies (also known as avoiding the question), including:

- Special pleadings (using a double standard or arguing for an unjustified exception)
- *Ad Hominem* attacks (attacking a person's character or motives)
- Genetic fallacies (condemning an argument because of where it began, how it began, or who began it)
- *Tu Quoque* (dismissing someone's viewpoint because they are inconsistent in that very thing)

Writing & Rhetoric: In *Writing and Rhetoric*, students will continue to learn the concepts of encomium and vituperation and how they can be used in a persuasive essay. Specific skills this month include:

- Annotation to aid the written and oral summary of a lengthy reading selection
- Summarizing text
- Critical thinking
- Picture analysis
- Creating hyperbole and similes
- Writing a thesis statement
- Finding direct quotes in a text to support a main idea
- Finding rhetorical devices in acclaimed speeches

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 unit will focus on types of sentences. Specific lessons will focus on:

- Simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences
- Using different types of sentences to make writing varied and more interesting

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. This month's study focuses on the following:

- Greek and Latin words related to earth, wind, and fire (geo, aer, pyr)
- English derivatives related to earth, wind, and fire

French: This month, students will review verb conjugation in the present tense. Students will:

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French

Grade 8 – 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.

- Continue to work on written comprehension activities
- Work towards memorizing the play *Un frère pénible*
- Read short French texts and answer comprehension questions
- Memorize the second and third of ten statements explaining the gospel

History/Geography: During the month of November, Grade 8 students will continue learning about Canadian history as we further explore The War of 1812. Specific topics of discussion include:

- Causes of the war
- Major battles
- Effects of the war on British North America
- Key figures in Upper Canada

Mathematics: In mathematics this month, students will study lines and linear equations. Students will learn to write the equation of a line in slope-intercept form by working on the following:

- Finding and interpreting slopes of lines
- Understanding slope-intercept form
- Writing linear equations
- Sketching linear equations

Science: In science, students will study rocks and the rock cycle. They will identify 30 different types of rocks and categorize them into three classifications of rocks. Students will learn:

- The process of rock formation
- To classify types of rocks
- How deposits of coal petroleum and natural gas form

Visual Arts: This month, students will continue to examine the use of the elements of art in artwork. Students will complete their monoprints using line to communicate movement. Students will:

- Study printmaking techniques
- Learn about the use of space
- Use proportion rules and techniques to communicate depth

Music: In the Grade 8 music class, students will focus on refining their skills on hand chimes as well as learn choral repertoire for the Christmas concert. Other elements include:

- Terms: *mano destra*, *mano sinistra*, *poco*
- Bass clef notation
- Two-part harmony
- Listening: Saint-Saens *Organ Symphony*

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.