

November 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova



Junior Kindergarten
Miss Melinda Morris
mmorris@innovaacademy.ca

Melinda holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Psychology from the University of Windsor and a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University. She is passionate about instilling a love of learning into the hearts of children and encouraging and inspiring them to be confident leaders. Using music, art, drama, and many visual resources, Melinda loves teaching in creative ways to engage children. After reading the book, *Shaping Hearts and Minds* by Monica and Shawn Whatley, Melinda is excited to bring the classical model of teaching to her classroom. Melinda enjoys travelling, meeting new people, and eating a variety of international foods. She is active in her church and serves in various capacities on the worship and prayer team as well as in local outreach and evangelism.



Melinda Morris
Teacher

Junior
Kindergarten

Our Junior Kindergarten program is designed to introduce children to the joy of learning through theme-based units. Students will listen to wonderful selections of classic children's literature and respond through engaging hands-on activities. We are committed to developing the whole child by providing a pleasant environment for children to take chances and explore. Above all, we strive to lead children to taste the joys of being a child of God and grow in their understanding of serving Him.

Christian Education: In junior kindergarten, the overarching theme is God's care and love for His people. The Old Testament stories introduce students to biblical characters in a way that shows how God displayed His love and care for His people. This month, topics include:

- Miriam
- Moses and the ten commandments
- The Tabernacle
- Feasts of Booths
- The Promised Land
- Hannah and Samuel
- David's songs and prayers, David and Goliath, David as king

Memory verse: Deuteronomy 30:16 "If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, ... and keeping his statutes and his rules, ... the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering." (ESV)

Language Arts: This month's themes are the seasons and Remembrance Day. Using songs, chants, and stories, students will develop phonics skills as they practice hearing, recognizing, and saying letters and their sounds. With the use of various tactile means, students will have opportunities to develop their fine motor skills and practice proper letter formation. This month, students will focus on:

- Long vowel sounds of *a* and *o*
- Recognizing the following letter sounds in words that begin or end with: *m, t, n, p, e, h, d, o, b, f, g, j*
- Distinguishing between words that rhyme and words that do not rhyme
- Proper Letter Formation: *a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l*

World Cultures and Geography: As we continue our tour of the world, students will explore Africa and China. Learning objectives for this month include:

- Locating Africa on a globe
- Recognizing a savanna as grassland
- Identifying two characteristics of a rain forest
- Locating the Congo River on a map of Africa
- Knowing that some Africans live in villages and some live in cities
- Recognizing some differences between a village and a city
- Locating Asia on a globe
- Knowing that China is a country in Asia

JK – 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.

Mathematics: Students will learn to recognize and say their numbers through songs and chants and use various tactile means to practice proper number formation. This month, students will:

- Compare numbers
- Understand the concept of more, less, and the same
- Compare sets of objects of more, less, and the same
- Measure various objects using non-standard measurement
- Sort objects in various ways

Science: This month in science, students will explore the seasons, weather, magnets, and shadows. They will work on various hands-on activities and experiments to learn about:

- The four seasons in Canada
- How the sun affects the seasons
- Different kinds of weather
- Magnets
- How shadows are made

Visual Arts: This month, students will learn about different cultural art types and styles. Our artwork will showcase the continent of Africa. Projects will include the following:

- Cultural masks
- Instruments
- Jewelry

Music: In music class, the kindergarten students will continue to explore ranges and opposites in music as well as learn more about instruments. They will continue to develop choral skills as they begin repertoire for Christmas. Lessons will include:

- Singing - types of vocalizing
- Pulses with stresses
- Rhythmic patterns
- Unpitched percussion
- Short/long sounds
- Christmas repertoire
- Instruments: the piano
- Listening: *Fantasia on Greensleeves* by Ralph Von Williams

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:

- Rolling games
- Underhand and overhand throwing using large balls
- Underhand throwing and catching to a partner and against the wall

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.