

December 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

Grade 1

Mrs. Melissa Wetzel

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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:** During the month of December, students are preparing their hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They will also memorize Jeremiah 23:5. Throughout the month, they will focus on the life and story of:

- Mary
- Joseph
- Shepherds and Angels
- Wise Men

**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 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 December, students will continue their study of legends and folktales from around the world using *K12 Classics for Young Readers* as their primary resource. Legend and folktale selections include:

- Stone Soup
- The Poor Man's Reward
- The Pine Tree and Its Needles

**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:

- Learn 10 new spelling words each week
- Use those 10 spelling words to construct sentences each week
- Learn the following multi-letter phonograms: *ng, ar, wh, aw, au, ck, oe, oa, ed*

**Grammar and Writing:** In December, students will continue their study of verbs. Students will:

- Distinguish between plural and singular verb forms
- Identify when to use *has* and *have*
- Identify that many verbs can show what happened in the past by adding *-ed*
- Use *ate* as the past tense form of *eat*

**Latin:** For the month of December, Grade 1 students will learn Christmas words, songs, and chants. Students will learn the Latin words for:

- Angel
- Shepherd
- Lamb
- Star
- Baby

## 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 continue their study on Canada's provinces, territories, and capital cities by constructing their own lap books. Students will also study the different regions of Canada by focusing on Canada's physical map. Regions include:

- Appalachians and Lowlands
- 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 December, students will begin a new unit titled "Ordinal Numbers and Position". Students will:

- Use ordinal numbers to show order
- Use position words to name relative positions
- Problem solve through word problems
- Review different shapes and patterns

**Science:** Grade 1 students will continue their investigation of living things. Students will germinate and plant their own seeds and document the stages that occur in the life cycle of a plant. Students will explore:

- How living things move
- How living things respond to other living things
- How God provides for plants
- How God provides for animals

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will study the painting *Forest Glade* by Emily Carr. They will explore painting techniques and experiment with mixing paint colours of different values. Students will:

- Create their own painting of nature
- Learn about value by mixing shades, tints, and tones
- Investigate Canadian artists including Emily Carr and Gershon Iskowitz
- Continue to memorize an art history song

**Music:** Innova students are very busy preparing for our annual Christmas concert. Classes will focus on:

- Polishing pieces for the Christmas performance
- Working together as an ensemble

**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:

- Kicking and dribbling with small balls and beanbags
- Dribbling relays
- Skills circuit with kicking and dribbling

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

## Upcoming Events

December 4 & 18– Prayer Meeting – Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome  
December 4, 11, 18 – Lunch Lady Lunch  
December 6 – Pizza Lunch  
December 7 – AGO Field Trip – Gr. 5-9  
December 14 – Special Lunch Lady Lunch  
December 16 – Grade 7/8 Performance at Cedarview  
December 19 – AMICA Christmas Performance  
December 20 – Christmas Concert – Main Sanctuary  
December 21 – Last Day of Classes Before Christmas Break – Noon Dismissal  
December 29 – Christmas Social - NTR  
December 24-January 4 – Christmas Break

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