

December 2018

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Johanna Hatt holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Liberty University in Virginia. She is currently completing her Master of Arts in Music Education. Being homeschooled using classical Christian education as the foundation of her studies, Johanna saw first-hand the benefits of classical Christian education and the positive impact it has made on her life. Johanna has worked with various schools in York Region, while continuing to provide her leadership to the Opera York Children's Chorus. When she's not teaching, Johanna is actively involved in her local church's worship team, singing with various arts organizations in the city, or reading a good book.



Johanna Hatt  
Teacher

Grade 2

Grade 2

Miss Johanna Hatt

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Grade 2 students are actively engaged in building 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 Luke 2:8-14. Throughout the month, they will focus on the life and story of:

- Mary
- Joseph
- Shepherds and Angels
- Wise Men

**Reading Fluency, Literature, and Vocabulary:** Grade 2 students' reading instruction is individualized based on individual reading assessments. Students will build and refine oral reading fluency, comprehension skills, and expand their vocabularies by reading in both large and small groups, individually, and at home. This month, students will focus on the following stories and lessons:

- *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney, *'Twas the Evening of Christmas* by Glenys Nellist, and *Jacob's Gift* by Max Lucado
- Identify temporal words that link and sequence events, i.e., first, next, then, etc.
- Identify words that link ideas, i.e., for example, also, in addition
- Demonstrate comprehension and draw inferences from the text
- Discuss vocabulary drawn from the text
- Retell a story using narrative language to describe characters, setting, and the plot of the story in proper sequence
- Relate story details to personal experiences

**Spelling and Penmanship:** Spelling and penmanship will be learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will:

- Review the following phonograms: *ow, ou, ay, ai, ea, or, ui, ng, ar, wh, aw, au*
- Continue to learn weekly spelling words and apply them to writing across the curriculum

**Grammar:** During the month of December, Grade 2 students will continue practicing the proper use of verbs before beginning a new unit on pronouns and adjectives. Lessons include:

- Helping verbs
- Verbs that tell what is happening now and what will happen
- Using vivid verbs
- The pronouns I and me
- Possessive adjectives and pronouns
- Indefinite and reflexive pronouns

**Writing:** For the month of December, students will review material covered previously to hone their skills writing personal narratives. They will then apply their knowledge of adjectives and the writing process to successfully write a vivid description. At the end of unit, students will:

- Define a description
- Learn to write a good topic sentence
- Use sensory words to make descriptions more vivid
- Identify errors and revise work as necessary

## Grade 2 – 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.

**Latin:** In Latin this month, Grade 2 students will learn the following types of vocabulary words:

- Classroom commands
- Manners
- Words relating to Christmas

**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 2 students begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the Calculadder math drill program. Each math class also begins with students singing skip counting songs. Students have continued to expand their knowledge of the skip counting songs by 2's through 11's. This month, students will learn about metric measurement. During the month of December, students will learn to:

- Measure in metres and centimetres
- Compare length in metres
- Compare length in centimeters

**Science:** Grade 2 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.