

December 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: Students will continue to discuss ways to deepen their walk with God through the study of spiritual disciplines. They will also better understand the character of God by studying His attributes. This month, students will:

- Discuss the discipline of journaling, silence, and solitude
- Consider the faithfulness of God
- Complete the memorization of Romans 8

Logic: Students will continue to learn how to identify logical fallacies using *The Fallacy Detective* curriculum. This month, students will finish learning about *red herring* fallacies including:

- Faulty appeal to authority (appealing to someone who has no special knowledge in the area being discussed)
- Appeal to the people (claiming our view is correct because many other people agree with it)
- Straw man (changing or exaggerating an opponent's position to make it easier to refute)

Literature/Writing: This month, students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Charles Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*. They will discover the spiritual depth of Dickens' message and learn what lessons of Christ are woven in among the scenes of Christmas splendor and the soul-searching of Scrooge. As students read through each stave, they will have the chance to interact with the story and reflect on its message. Students will successfully apply skills learned to lessons on the following:

- Character analysis
- Symbolism
- Unfamiliar vocabulary such as *veneration* and *misanthropic*
- Figurative language: *simile, metaphor, idiom, hyperbole, analogy, personification, onomatopoeia, allusion, and pun*
- Conflicts: *person vs person, person vs technology, person vs nature, person vs himself, person vs society*
- Essay writing containing the following elements: *figurative language, a strong thesis statement, quotes taken from the text, a strong conclusion, voice, and word flow*

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 understanding verb tense. Specific lessons will include:

- Tenses: past, present, and future
- Aspects: simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect-continuous

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 life and death (*viv/vit, mort, nat/nasc*)
- English derivatives related to life and death

French: This month, students will practice and review conjugating verbs for the present tense. Students will:

- Continue working towards speaking exclusively in French
- Work on written comprehensive activities

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.

- Work towards memorizing the play *Un frère pénible*
- Complete memorization of the third of 10 gospel statements

History/Geography: During the month of December, students will explore how conflicts in Canada in the 1830s and 1840s were resolved. More specifically, students will be able to answer the following questions:

- What types of conflict have occurred in Canadian history?
- How can conflict between groups of people be successfully resolved?
- How has conflict brought about change in history?
- What were the long-term causes of the Rebellions of 1837-1838?
- How did key personalities play a role in the rebellions and how did they work for change?
- What were the major events of the Rebellions of 1837-1838?
- How did views about the future of reform vary after the rebellions?

Mathematics: Students will study functions and understand that a function is a relation between a set of inputs and outputs. Lessons will focus on:

- Understanding relations and functions
- Representing functions
- Understanding linear and nonlinear functions
- Comparing two functions

Science: Students will investigate tectonic plates and the formation of volcanoes and earthquakes. They will examine the following:

- The three types of volcanoes and their formation
- Causes of earthquakes
- Locating and measuring earthquakes
- The discovery of the mantle and core of the earth

Visual Arts: This month, students will learn about printmaking techniques and examine famous prints by artists throughout history. Students will design and carve their own prints. Students will:

- Examine the work of Albrecht Dürer, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
- Learn about positive and negative space
- Study printmaking techniques
- Develop and carve a lino-block print

Music: Innova students are very busy preparing for our annual Christmas concert. Over the next weeks, music classes will mostly consist of:

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

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

- Teamwork
- Defensive and offensive plays
- Jump shots
- Setting up plays

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.