

December 2018

The Month Ahead At Innova

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

Junior Kindergarten
Miss Melinda Morris
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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 of this year's Bible study is God's care and love for His people. During December, students will focus on the Christmas story. Students will discover that the birth of Jesus the Messiah is the fulfillment of prophecy and that God came to earth in human flesh. This month, topics include:

- The angel's visit to Mary
- Jesus' birth
- The shepherds and the angels
- The visit of the wise men
- Simeon and Anna
- Memory verses: Luke 2:11 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." (ESV) Hebrews 1:1-3 "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power." (ESV)

Language Arts: This month's themes are the solar system and Christmas. 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 learn about:

- Short and long vowel sounds of *a*, *e*, and *i*
- Beginning & ending sounds of the letters: *s*, *w*, *z*, *l*, *th*, *k*, *v*, *r*
- Distinguishing between words that rhyme and words that do not rhyme
- Blending sounds to read words
- Proper Letter Formation: *m*, *n*, *o*, *p*, *q*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *u*

World Cultures and Geography: As we continue our tour of the world, students will learn about China, Japan, and Israel. Students will:

- Locate Asia on a globe
- Know that China is a country in the continent of Asia
- Know that the Yangtze River is an important river in China
- Locate Japan on a world map
- Know that Tokyo is the largest city in Japan

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.

- Know how to say hello in both Mandarin and Japanese
- Locate Israel on a world map
- Know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem

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's focus is on patterning using a variety of attributes such as colour, size, and kind. Patterns explored will include:

- A review of AB patterns
- An introduction to ABC and AABB patterning

Science: This month in science, students will explore the solar system. They will do various hands-on activities and experiments to answer the following questions:

- What are the names and characteristics of the planets?
- What is gravity?
- How does the moon shine?
- What is a star?

Visual Arts: This month, students will learn about the art of Asia and complete a project related to Christmas. Projects will include:

- Japanese paper fans
- Chinese lanterns
- Nativity scene

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: 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 encouraged to develop good sportsmanship while playing games with their classmates. This month's topics include:

- Overhand throwing using large balls
- Two hand overhand throwing
- One hand overhand throwing
- Underhand and overhand throwing with scoops

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.