

January 2019

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 6

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

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Adele first encountered classical education through reading Susan Wise Bauer's book *The Well-Trained Mind*. While home educating her three children, she quickly adopted the classical method and her enthusiasm increased as she saw the fruit of the methodology in her children's progress. As one of the founding families of Innova Academy, Adele is thrilled to see the vision of a classical, Christian school become a reality. She currently serves as teaching vice principal, teaching Grades 5 and 6 at Innova. Besides home educating, Adele has taught Grades 5 and 6, Kindergarten to Grade 8 music, and worked as a special education resource and enrichment teacher in both public and private schools.



Adele McLaughlin
Teaching Vice
Principal

Grade 5 and
Grade 6

Grade 6 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: This month, students will continue to study the life of Christ as portrayed in the gospels. Students will:

- Study how God led Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to escape from the hands of King Herod
- Look deeper into Jesus' childhood, the education he would have received, and his first visit to the temple
- Continue their memorization in 1 John, working on chapter 3 verses 7-15

Literature and Writing: This month, students will enter the fantasy world of J.R.R. Tolkien as they begin a study of *The Hobbit*. In writing, they will begin to write an original speech in preparation for the ACSI Public Speaking Festival. Students will:

- Explore literary devices, plot development, conflict, vocabulary, and characterization
- Reflect on themes such as good versus evil, courage, and heroism
- Discuss lessons learned and biblical application
- Understand the difference between an essay and a speech
- Choose and narrow an appropriate topic
- Research their topic and take notes
- Construct an outline of their speech

Spelling: Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and understanding and applying spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Analyze weekly spelling words drawn from the class list and student writing
- Write well-constructed sentences to practice grammar skills and illustrate the meaning of weekly spelling words

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 grammar study focuses on:

- Review of subjects, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, coordinating conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions
- Transitive active verbs and indirect objects
- Interjections and nouns of direct address

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

- Learn English derivatives related to the Latin words *dict* (say, declare) and *scrib/script* (write)
- Learn English derivatives related to the Greek word *graph/gram* (write, draw, describe, record)

French: This month, students will begin retelling the story of *Boucles Violettes* in their own words. Additionally, students will:

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Continue to memorize the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Memorize the third of 10 gospel statements
- Answer questions about the play orally and in writing

History/Geography: This year, students will delve into world history spanning 1500 to 1800. Topics discussed this month include:

- King James and his enemies

Grade 6 – 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.

- The Jamestown colony
- Strangers and saints in Plymouth
- The Dutch in the New World
- The spread of slavery
- Queen Nzinga of Angola
- Hideyoshi, Japan's great leader
- The first Tokugawa ruler

Mathematics: In the first part of January, students will continue their study of expressing and calculating "percent" and applying these mathematical expressions to real-world problems and practical scenarios. In the later part of January, the Grade 6 class will begin their next unit focusing on algebraic expressions. In this unit, students will:

- Use variables to represent unknown quantities
- Identify terms in algebraic expressions
- Evaluate algebraic expressions for given values
- Simplify algebraic expressions and expand and factor them

Science: This month, students will continue to investigate motion and things that move. They will examine the following in relation to motion:

- Relativity and motion
- Application of Newton's laws of motion
- Understanding inertia and its application

Visual Arts: Students will begin the new year by studying the art of the High Renaissance. They will learn to draw a hand by studying hands drawn by Leonardo Da Vinci and then study sculptures by Michelangelo paying close attention to the hands. Students will apply their knowledge to create a dramatic hand sculpture. Areas of study will include:

- Masters of the Italian Renaissance
- 3-dimensional sculptures
- Shape, form, and texture

Music: In the Grade 6 music class, students will continue their choral training in canons and two-part harmony as well as continue ukulele lessons. They will expand their knowledge of composers, music notation, and terms. Lessons include:

- Review introduction, interlude, coda, theme and variations
- Introduction to sonata form
- Bass clef
- Ukulele
- Review vocal technique, solfege, and part singing
- Time period: Romantic
- Composers: Chopin, Schumann, Liszt
- Listening: "Raindrop" Prelude, Liebestraum, Schuman Piano Concerto

Physical Education: This month, students will continue to learn about and play basketball. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Ball handling
- Best shooting practices
- 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

January 7 – School Resumes
January 8 & 22 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome
January 24-31 – High School Evaluation Days
January 25 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports Sent Home
January 31 – Parent Teacher Interview Night
February 1 – PA Day – All Students – Parent Teacher Interviews

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