

January 2019

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 is God's care and love for His people. Students will be introduced to Old Testament stories and characters in order for them to recognize how God displayed His loving kindness. This month, topics include:

- Elijah and the fiery chariot
- Elisha and the Shunamite family
- Healing of Naaman
- King Josiah
- Jonah and the fish
- Nineveh
- Daniel and his friends
- Esther

Memory Verses: Hebrews 13:5b-6 "I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we can confidently say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Language Arts: This month, Junior Kindergarten students will listen to stories and complete activities associated with the themes winter/snow and animals in the Arctic. 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:

- Phonics: short vowel sounds of *e, i, u*
- Beginning and/or ending sounds of the letters found in words: *ch, th, k, v, r, y*
- Learn to put phrases together to make sentences
- Learn and practice blends: *th, ch*
- Proper letter formation: *v, w, x, y, z*

World Cultures and Geography: As we continue our tour of the world, students will learn about Japan, India, and Saudi Arabia. Learning objectives for this month include:

- Identifying Japanese culture through *The Story of Momotaro* (Peach Boy) & Bunraku puppets
- Locating India and Saudi Arabia on a map
- Knowing that India and Saudi Arabia are located in the continent of Asia
- Learning about the Taj Mahal and the spices of India
- Recognizing that elephants are important animals in India
- Learning how to say hello in Hindi (Namaste) and in Arabic (Salam)
- Identifying clothing (kaftan and ghutra) in Saudi Arabia
- Recognizing Riyadh as the capital city in Saudi Arabia

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.

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, students will:

- Review 2-D shapes
- Explore 3-D shapes - cubes, spheres, cones, cylinders
- Compare 3-D shapes according to their characteristics
- Measure objects using a variety of tools

Science: This month in science, students will explore matter and energy before learning about animals that hibernate. They will complete various hands-on activities and experiments to investigate:

- Matter and how it takes up space
- How and at what temperatures things freeze
- Facts about snowflakes
- Hibernation
- Which Canadian animals hibernate in the winter?

Visual Arts: This month, students will learn about different cultural art types and styles. Our artwork will showcase the continent of Asia. Projects will include the following:

- Japanese paper fans
- Chinese lanterns
- Indian mandala patterns and jewelry

Music: In music class, Junior Kindergarten students will continue to learn foundational skills through singing, movement, playing unpitched percussion, and playing musical games. Students will:

- Clap back and read rhythm patterns involving quarter and eighth notes
- Identify and respond to fast/slow, long/short, and loud/quiet
- Feel and show pulse
- Match pitches *so, mi, la, do* in a variety of sequences
- Recognize and sing to the Kodaly hand signs for *so, mi, la, do*

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:

- 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

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.