

February 2019

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1

Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

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Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grade 1 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco  
Teacher

Grade 1



Grade 1 students are actively engaged in learning 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 February, students will continue to study Jesus' ministry. They will also memorize Psalm 139:1-10. Throughout the month, students will focus on:

- Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath
- Jesus' power over evil spirits
- The rejected one
- Feeding the 5000
- Walking on water
- Peter's confession
- The transfiguration

**Reading Fluency:** Grade 1 students' reading instruction is individualized based on individual reading assessments. Students will build and refine oral reading fluency and comprehension skills by reading in both large and small groups, individually, and at home. Throughout the year, students will:

- Apply phonics skills to reading unfamiliar words
- Continue to build sight word proficiency
- Read clearly with expression, observing punctuation
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Draw inferences from the text, draw conclusions, make predictions

**Literature and Vocabulary:** In February, students will read and study classic stories from the *Classics for Young Readers* anthology. They will also begin to study *Aesop's Fables*. Fables discussed will include:

- *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*
- *The Dog in the Manger*
- *Wolf in Sheep's Clothing*

**Spelling, Phonics, and Penmanship:** Spelling, phonics, and penmanship are learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will review phonograms and apply them to their weekly spelling words. Students will:

- Learn 15 new spelling words each week
- Use spelling words to construct interesting and properly punctuated sentences
- Learn the following multi-letter phonograms: *dge*, *wr*, *ti*, *ci*, *si*, and *tch*

**Grammar and Writing:** In February, students will learn to write a friendly letter. They will also study adjectives and contractions. Students will:

- Understand the structure of a friendly letter
- Use a graphic organizer to record ideas, then compose and revise their own friendly letter
- Identify adjectives and use them in their own writing
- Learn to combine two words into one to make a contraction

**Latin:** In Latin this month, Grade 1 students will learn the following types of vocabulary words:

- Manners
- Animals
- The body

## Grade 1 – 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.

**History:** This year, students are studying Canada, focusing on Canada's geography, symbols, early settlers, and communities. This month, students will learn about the Anishinabe People. They will study:

- Where the Anishinabe lived
- What the Anishinabe ate
- Travel and tools of the Anishinabe
- Anishinabe clans and ceremonies
- How to make a canoe

**Mathematics:** Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalculLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. In the month of February, students will complete a unit titled "Picture Graphs and Bar Graphs" and will begin studying "Counting to 40." Specifically, students will learn:

- How to create picture graphs
- How to create tally charts
- How to create bar graphs
- How to compare and order numbers to 40
- How to complete number patterns to 40

**Science:** In February's science classes, students will continue to investigate changes by examining the many changes that take place in our world. Students will explore the following questions:

- How does the moon change?
- How do weather patterns change?
- How does the wind change?
- How do temperature and precipitation change?
- What changes happen in the fall, winter, spring, and summer?

**Visual Arts:** Students will study line, value, and space and complete the following projects:

- Draw a winter landscape scene inspired by Clarence Gagnon
- Paint a monochromatic winter landscape based on landscapes by J.W. Morrice and Morrice Cullen

**Music:** This month, students will become more familiar with the Orff instruments. They will also continue to practice singing with solfege, rhythm, and directional note reading. More specific goals will include:

- Percussion patterns on the Orff instruments
- Solfege composition and dictation
- Good tone quality in singing
- Using percussion instruments
- Understanding and identifying the whole rest
- Becoming familiar with J. S. Bach and his works

**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:

- Working with hoops
- Working with sticks

*Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.*

## Upcoming Events

February 4 – ACSI Jr. Boys Basketball Tournament – Toronto  
February 5 & 19 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome  
February 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Lunch Lady Lunch  
February 8 – Exordium – Parents Welcome AND Pizza Lunch  
February 15 – Walk Through Literature Day  
February 20 – In-School Speech Meet  
February 21 – Sr. Boys Basketball Tournament - Stouffville  
February 22 – Pizza Lunch  
February 28 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival - Mississauga

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