

February 2019

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: This month, students will continue their study of the book of Colossians and apologetics. Students will:

- Continue to use their scripture journals to dig deeper into Colossians, looking closely at Colossians 1:24 - 2:15
- Answer the questions, 'What is truth?', 'Does God Exist?' and 'What about Evolution?'
- Commit Colossians 3:11-17 to memory

Logic: Students will continue their study of logic using *The Fallacy Detective* curriculum. This month, students will learn about fallacies that are based on hidden assumptions, including:

- Slippery Slopes
- Part-to-Whole
- Whole-to-Part
- Either-Or

Literature: During the month of February, students will continue to listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about famous speeches that have been delivered throughout history. Students will understand what makes some speeches memorable, and others not. As students listen to and read speeches, they will look for various forms of rhetorical devices which make these speeches effective. Specific speeches and lessons will include, but are not limited to:

- *Gettysburg Address* – Abraham Lincoln
- *Ain't I a Woman* – Sojourner Truth
- Rhetorical Devices: alliteration, allusion, anaphora, epistrophe, hyperbole, hypophora, metaphor, parallelism, repetition, simile
- Rhetorical Appeals: logos, pathos, ethos

Writing & Rhetoric: This month, students will continue to use the skills they are learning in literature about effective speeches and apply them to their writing as they finish composing their own original speeches. Along with the above rhetorical devices, students will focus on the following:

- Revising and editing
- Elocution skills

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 the three types of verbals (words that are formed from verbs but function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs) in the English language. Lessons will include:

- Gerunds
- Participles (past and present)
- Infinitives

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 beginning and end (init, fin, term)
- English derivatives related to beginning and end

French: This month, students will learn cultural differences between France and Quebec. Students will:

- Continue to work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Work on written comprehensive activities
- Work towards memorizing the play *Un frère pénible*
- Complete their memorization of the third of 10 gospel statements

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.

History/Geography: Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how both America and Canada became the great nations they are today. Focus for the month of February will be the American Civil War. Specific lessons will include:

- Abraham Lincoln and secession
- The Rebels and the Yanks
- Battles of 1861: Fort Sumter and Bull Run
- Battles of 1862: The Ironclads and Shiloh
- The Emancipation Proclamation
- Battles of 1863: Chancellorsville and Gettysburg
- The Battles of 1864-1865 and Sherman's March
- The Surrender of Robert E. Lee

Mathematics: Students will study geometric transformations. Geometric transformations move figures about on a plane. Each type of transformation changes some properties of a figure but leaves other properties unchanged. Students will focus on:

- Translations
- Reflections
- Rotations
- Dilations
- Comparing transformations

Science: Students will continue to investigate the eleven organ systems of the body. This month, they will examine the anatomy and function of the following systems:

- Digestive
- Lymphatic
- Respiratory
- Circulatory
- Excretory

Visual Arts: Students will study paintings by the Impressionist artists Monet, Degas, Renoir, and Cassatt. They will:

- Select a painting to reproduce with acrylic paint on stretched canvas
- Apply the impressionist techniques they studied

Music: Starting in February through May, Grade 8 students will begin rehearsing the choral music and scenes for their upcoming spring musical *Malice in the Palace*. They will also continue their work with handchimes and refine their score reading abilities. Specific skills include:

- Acting skills
- Intervals
- Rhythm reading
- Choral technique

Physical Education: This month, students will finish playing basketball and then start badminton. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Stance
- Hitting techniques
- Court positioning
- Singles and doubles

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.