

February 2019

# The Month Ahead At Innova



Junior Kindergarten  
Miss Melinda Morris  
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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

*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 Bible class, the overarching theme is God's care and love for His people. The Old Testament stories introduce students to biblical characters in a way that shows how God displays His love and takes care of each person. This month, topics include:

- Jesus visits the Temple
- Jesus and Nicodemus
- Jesus chooses His disciples
- Jesus blesses the children
- Jesus' talk with a Samaritan woman
- Memory Verses: John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved." (ESV)

**Language Arts:** This month, Junior Kindergarten students will listen to stories and complete activities associated with the themes 100 days of school, Valentine's Day, and body parts (head, shoulders, knees, toes, eyes, ears, mouth, and nose). 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, skills include:

- Phonics: /sh/, /aw/, /kw/, /oi/, /ks/, long u, /oo/, /ow/ sounds
- Beginning and/or ending sounds of the following phonograms found in words: /sh/, /aw/, /kw/, /oi/, /ks/, long u, /oo/, /ow/
- Identifying the number of syllables in words
- Journal writing: printing the letters Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd, Ee, Ff, Gg, Hh, Ii, Jj, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, Oo independently

**World Cultures and Geography:** As we continue our tour of the world, students will learn about Canada and the United States of America. Students will:

- Learn about the Inuit living in the Arctic
- Learn about Canadian winter sports
- Locate Canada and America on a map
- Know that Canada is the second largest country in the world
- Know that Canada and America are located in the continent of North America
- Recognize that people in Canada speak English and French
- Learn about the Quebec Winter Carnival
- Learn about Christopher Columbus, the Wright Brothers, and the Statue of Liberty

**Mathematics:** Junior kindergarten mathematics emphasizes the use of manipulatives and concrete materials to enable students to explore and develop ideas fundamental to the study of mathematics. This month, students will learn about:

- Measuring, comparing, and ordering height
- Measuring and comparing capacity

## 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.

- Measuring using non-standard materials
- Recognizing standard measurement tools
- Estimating and collecting data
- Numbers 10-19 and sets of 10

**Science:** This month in science, students will explore body parts, nutrition, colours and light. Students will learn the French words for head, shoulders, knees, toes, eyes, ears, mouth, and nose through the Head and Shoulders song. They will also do various hands-on activities and experiments such as the balloon lung experiment, the sugar experiment, the exploding colours in milk experiment, the walking water colour and light experiments to learn about:

- Body systems - muscular, digestive, nervous, respiratory, circulatory
- Healthy eating
- How colours are made
- Light and its source

**Visual Arts:** This year, students are learning about cultural art from around the world. This month's artwork will showcase the continent of North America. Projects will include the following:

- Native Canadian art using the colours blue, red, green, and black
- Valentine's Day art project
- Create a body made from shapes

**Music:** In music class, Junior Kindergarten students will begin to work with unpitched percussion and continue to practice their skills singing. This month, there will be a stronger emphasis on pitch matching, keeping a steady pulse, and understanding rhythmic notation. More specifically, we will explore:

- Good singing tone and correct pitch matching
- Half notes and half rests
- Rhythmic patterns on unpitched percussion instruments

**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 focus includes:

- Kicking
- Beanbag dribbling with feet
- Ball kicking variations
- Kicking to a target

*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.