

March 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 March, students will study the topic of prayer. They will also finish memorizing Psalm 139:1-10. Throughout the month, students will explore the following topics:

- What is prayer?
- Our Father in heaven
- Our daily bread
- Forgiveness and deliverance

**Reading Fluency:** Grade 1 students' reading instruction is individualized based on individual reading assessments. Students will build and refine oral reading fluency and reading 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
- Draw inferences from the text

**Literature and Vocabulary:** In March, students will complete a novel study on *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* by Alice Dalgliesh. They will also continue to read and study classic stories from the *Classics for Young Readers* anthology, including *The Tortoise and the Hare* and *Over in the Meadow*. Students will:

- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Compare and contrast characters from different stories
- Change some story events and provide a different story ending

**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 apply their phonetic knowledge to learn and practice their spelling words. Students will:

- Learn 15 new spelling words each week
- Use their weekly spelling words to construct sentences
- Learn the following multi-letter phonogram: *igh, ei, ey, and ph*

**Grammar and Writing:** In March, students will learn how to read and write contractions. They will study the following contractions:

- *Don't, didn't, doesn't, couldn't, isn't, aren't, hasn't, haven't, can't, wasn't, weren't, I'm, I'll, it's, he's, she's, we're, they're*

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

- Parts of the face
- Food words

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

- Europeans explorers
- Ways that Aboriginal people helped the Europeans

## 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.

- The fur trade
- Changes to Upper Canada

**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 March, students will complete a unit on *Length* and a unit on *Weight*. Specifically, students will learn to:

- Compare the length of two or more things
- Use a start line to measure length
- Measure length in standard units
- Compare the weight of two or more things
- Measure weight with non-standard units
- Measure weight in standard units

**Science:** In March, students will continue to investigate changes during science class by examining the many changes that take place in our world. Students will focus on the four seasons this month, and investigate the following questions:

- What changes happen in the fall?
- What changes happen in the winter?
- What changes happen in the spring?
- What changes happen in the summer?

**Visual Arts:** In art class, students will create a pinch pot inspired by Wendat pottery. Areas of study include:

- 3-dimensional sculpture
- colour
- texture

**Music:** This month, the Grade 1 class will continue to refine their technique on the Orff instruments as well as continue to learn more about reading and writing on the musical staff. Topics include:

- Syncopated rhythmic notation
- Understanding phrases
- Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons"
- Composition on the musical staff
- Spring concert repertoire

**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:

- Manipulative activities with different equipment
- Using the hoops and frisbees
- Tossing to a target
- Engaging in a variety of cooperation games

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

## Upcoming Events

March 4 – Science Centre (JK-4) – Toronto

March 5 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome AND Lunch Lady Lunch

March 8 – Pizza Lunch

March 11-22 – March Break – No School

March 26 – Lunch Lady Lunch

March 29 – Pizza Lunch

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