

March 2019

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 5

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

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Adele first encountered classical education through reading Susan Wise Bauer's book *The Well-Trained Mind*. While home educating her three children, she quickly adopted the classical method and her enthusiasm increased as she saw the fruit of the methodology in her children's progress. As one of the founding families of Innova Academy, Adele is thrilled to see the vision of a classical, Christian school become a reality. She currently serves as teaching vice principal, teaching Grades 5 and 6 at Innova. Besides home educating, Adele has taught Grades 5 and 6, Kindergarten to Grade 8 music, and worked as a special education resource and enrichment teacher in both public and private schools.



Adele McLaughlin
Teaching Vice
Principal

Grade 5 and
Grade 6

Grade 5 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: Students will begin a new unit looking at the expansion of Jesus' ministry as displayed in the gospels. We will focus in on Jesus' power over physical illness, nature, and demons. This month, students will:

- Look at how Jesus heals the nobleman's son, demoniac, and Peter's mother-in-law
- Respond to the passages studied through journal entries, recording thoughts, questions, and what God is teaching them
- Memorize 1 John 3:16-18

Literature and Writing: This month, students will complete their study of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* by writing a four-paragraph literary essay based on a chosen theme. They will then begin a unit titled *Stuff and Nonsense*. In this unit, students will read humorous or nonsensical writing in several genres—nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. Students will:

- Write a well-structured essay including an introduction, two body paragraphs, and a conclusion
- Include a clear thesis statement, supporting details, direct quotations from the text, and a concluding paragraph
- Demonstrate understanding of stylistic elements including clear and concise wording and sentence variety
- Read non-fiction articles about the history of riddles and explore the meaning of four riddles from *The Exeter Book*
- Formulate opinions and personal responses
- Contribute meaningfully to group discussions explaining ideas, building upon others' comments, and asking questions

Spelling: Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and understanding and applying spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Analyze weekly spelling words drawn from the class list and student writing
- Write well-constructed sentences to practice grammar skills and illustrate the meaning of weekly spelling words

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 Grammar study focuses on identifying and diagramming the following:

- Direct objects
- Coordinating conjunctions
- Compound subjects and verbs

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

Grade 5 – 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.

- Learn English derivatives related to the Latin words *hops* (guest) and *host* (stranger, enemy)
- Learn English derivatives related to the Greek word *onym* (name)

French: This month, students will finish retelling the story *Boucles Violettes* in their own words. Students will:

- Work on speaking exclusively in French
- Continue to memorize their lines from the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Work to memorize the sixth gospel statement
- Learn how to conjugate the second group of regular verbs in French
- Complete written and oral activities about the play in French

History/Geography: This year, students will delve into world history spanning 1500 to 1800. Topics discussed this month include:

- The Moghul Emperors of India
- The Thirty Years' War

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will complete their unit on multiplying and dividing decimals. Next, students will begin a unit on percent, exploring how percent is used in various contexts. Topics include:

- Expressing fractions as percent
- Percent of a number
- Real world problems: percent

Science: This month, students will continue their investigation of space. Students will explore our solar system comparing all the planets. They will then study the following about the universe:

- Black holes
- Stars, nebulas, and their composition
- Space exploration

Visual Arts: This month, students will create a sculpture in kiln-fired clay. Areas of study include:

- 3-dimensional sculpture
- Colour
- Texture

Music: The Grade 5 music class continues to progress in their choral singing, note reading, and ukulele ensemble. Specific objectives include:

- F scale and ukulele repertoire in the key of F
- *Malice in the Palace* choral songs
- Writing key signatures on the treble staff

Physical Education: This month, students will continue to play badminton. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Rules
- Serving
- Court positioning
- Playing as 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

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.