

March 2019

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

mgazmin@innovaacademy.ca

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: Students will continue to study apologetics, answering the difficult questions of our faith. They will also continue their in-depth study of Colossians, learning how to study God's Word in context, and apply the truths to their lives today. This month, students will:

- Focus on the question, 'If God exists, why is there evil?'
- Prayerfully examine and discuss the meaning of Colossians 2:1-15
- Memorize Colossians 3:15-17

Logic: Students will continue their study of logic using *The Fallacy Detective* curriculum as they transition to the next category of fallacies called "Statistical Fallacies". Fallacies discussed include:

- Generalizations
- Analogies
- *Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc* ("after this, therefore because of this")
- Proof by Lack of Evidence

Writing & Rhetoric: This month, students will write either an encomium or a vituperative essay about the Confederate "torpedo" or Carry A. Nation. In this unit, students will practice the following:

- Weighing the strengths and weaknesses of an invention and making a moral judgment about that invention
- Weighing the strengths and weaknesses of a historical figure and making a judgement about that historical figure
- Critical thinking
- Using prepositional phrases to add sentence variety
- Employing parallelism to grab audience attention
- Organizing ideas around a thesis
- Using textual evidence to support a thesis
- Comparing and contrasting weapons of war
- Comparing and contrasting images and biographical figures
- Impromptu speaking using rhetorical devices
- Formal discussion
- Proofreading and revision

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 be a continuation of sentence diagramming. Specifically, students will:

- Review how to diagram direct and indirect objects, subject and object complements, the understood "you", and both compound and complex sentences
- Diagram gerunds, infinitives, and participles

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 shape, build, and wander
- English derivatives related to shape, build, and wander

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.

French: This month, students will learn how to rewrite the story "Un frère penible" using different words. Students will:

- Work towards exclusively speaking in French
- Work towards memorizing the play "Un frère penible"
- Work on learning irregular verbs in French
- Work on writing and comprehension activities
- Work on memorizing of the sixth gospel statement

History/Geography: Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how Canada became the great nation it is today. Our focus from now until the end of the year will be the 19th century. Lessons during the month of March will include:

- Who were the people of British North America?
- What was life like in British North America?
- Physical, political, and economic features of British North America

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will be completing a unit on congruency and similarity. They will be using geometric properties and proportion to determine whether corresponding figures are similar. Topics include:

- Properties of similar triangles
- Applying the concepts of similarity
- Relating geometric figures using geometric transformations

Science: This month, students will investigate the four fundamental forces. They will exam magnetism and its relationship to electricity and light. Students will then begin investigating the following:

- Strong and weak nuclear forces
- Gravity
- Unification problem

Visual Arts: Students will create a sculpture from kiln-fired clay inspired by Inca pottery. They will focus on:

- 3-dimensional sculpture
- Colour
- Texture

Music: The Grade 8 music class continues to progress in their choral singing, note reading, and hand chime ensemble. They are preparing for a chimes concert in April and the spring musical in June. Specific objectives include:

- Hand chime repertoire
- *Malice in the Palace* choral songs
- Identifying intervals by ear
- Composition

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

- Rules
- Serving
- Court positioning
- Playing in 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.