

April 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 April, students will memorize Mathew 28:5-10 as they focus on preparing for Easter. Throughout the month, students will explore the following topics:

- Jesus as a servant
- The Last Supper
- Jesus comforting His disciples
- The betrayal, arrest, and trial of Jesus
- Peter's denial
- The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
- The Emmaus appearance
- Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish
- The Ascension

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
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Draw inferences from the text

Literature and Vocabulary: In April, students will complete novel studies on *The Josephina Story Quilt* by Eleanor Coerr and *The Knights of the Round Table* by Gwen Gross. They will also continue to read and study classic stories using the *Classics for Young Readers* anthology. Students will:

- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Identify sensory language and how it is used to describe people, objects, places, and events
- Use narrative language to describe people, places, things, locations, events, and actions
- Make predictions and draw inferences from the text

Spelling, Phonics, and Penmanship: Spelling, phonics, and penmanship will be learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will practice their spelling words and learn the following phonograms:

- Learn 15 new spelling words each week
- Use those 15 spelling words to construct sentences each week
- Learn the following multi-letter phonogram: *kn, gn, ough, and ew*

Grammar and Writing: In April, students will learn to write how-to articles. They will also study different types of words. Specifically, students will:

- Learn what a how-to article is
- Plan, draft, edit, proofread, and publish a how-to article
- Distinguish between synonyms and antonyms
- Determine word categories
- Use context clues to determine meaning

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

- The four seasons
- Gardening words

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.

History: This year, students are studying Canada, focusing on Canada's geography, symbols, early settlers, and communities. This month, students will learn about how the population of Upper Canada grew. They will learn about the Loyalists and immigrants that came from Britain. Students will study:

- Who the Loyalists were and how they acquired land
- The first governor of Upper Canada
- Why immigrants came from Britain
- Changes for the Aboriginal people
- Aboriginal reservations

Mathematics: Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalcuLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. In the month of April, students will complete a unit on *Addition and Subtraction to 40* and a unit on *Mental Math Strategies*.

Specifically, students will practice the following:

- Addition with and without regrouping
- Subtraction with and without regrouping
- Add three numbers
- Mental addition and subtraction

Science: In April, students will investigate materials and objects. Students will explore the following questions:

- What are materials and objects like?
- How can we use numbers in observations?
- What are the properties of different materials?
- How can a material's use and properties be changed through mixing with water, manipulation, and heating or cooling?

Visual Arts: Projects this month focus on the Wendat people and pioneer quilts. Students will:

- Draw a Wendat longhouse using pen and ink techniques
- Design a quilt square which will then be assembled to make a large group quilt

Music: As we enter the final months of the school year, the Grade 1 class will begin preparing repertoire for the spring concert. They will create a musical composition, prepare a choral piece, and develop their ensemble playing. Specific skills include:

- Understanding and identifying time signatures
- Playing and listening as an ensemble
- Writing music
- Identifying instruments of the orchestra
- Playing Orff 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 topics include:

- Jumping and landing
- Take off combinations
- Jump shapes and directions
- Travelling over and around
- Cooperative games
- Stretching and warm up routines

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

Upcoming Events

April 2, 16 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Lunch Lady Lunch

April 5 – Lunch Lady Lunch Event

April 8 – Gr. 7 Immunization Clinic AND House Spelling Bee Competition

April 9 – Exordium – Parents Welcome

April 12, 26 – Pizza Lunch

April 15 – House Spelling Bee Competition

April 18 – Women's Event and Open House

April 19 & 22 – Good Friday & Easter Monday – No School

April 29 – ACSI Badminton Tournament (Gr. 7/8) – Stouffville

April 30 – Shaw Festival – Gr. 2-6, 9

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