

April 2019

The Month Ahead

At Innova

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

Junior Kindergarten
Miss Melinda Morris
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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: The overarching theme in Christian Education is God's care and love for His people. The Old Testament stories introduce students to biblical characters highlighting how God displayed His love and took care of each of these people. This month, topics include:

- The Good Shepherd
- The wise and foolish builders
- The Pharisee and the tax collector
- The widow's offering
- The rich young man

Memory Verses: John 13:34-35: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples."

Language Arts: This month, Junior Kindergarten students will listen to, discuss, and complete activities associated with stories with the following themes: Easter, spring, and insects. With the use of various tactile means, songs, games, and chants, students will practice proper letter formation and pronunciation. This month, students will practice:

- Beginning and ending sounds in words: /l/, /n/, /p/, /r/, /o/, /d/, /g/, /k/, /v/
- Blending sounds to build words
- Sight words
- Reading independently from the phonics based reading series
- Writing Journals: printing letters independently - Ww, Xx, Yy, Zz

World Cultures and Geography: As we continue our tour of the world, students will learn about the Amazon Rainforest in South America and Thailand. Learning objectives for this month include:

- Locating the Amazon Rainforest and Thailand on a map
- Knowing that the Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest on the earth
- Learning about the various kinds of animals found in the Amazon Rainforest
- Recognizing that people in Thailand speak Thai
- Practicing how to say hello in Thai
- Learning a Christian song in Thai
- Becoming familiar with Thai culture: their clothes, homes, arts, food, toys, and traditions

Mathematics: Students will learn to recognize and say their numbers through counting as well as use various tactile means to practice proper number formation. This month, objectives include:

- Counting from 1 to 50
- Estimation and data
- Graphing

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.

- Combining sets: addition facts to 10
- Subtracting sets: subtraction facts to

Science: This month in science, students will explore insects, Canadian birds, and spring. They will do various hands-on activities and experiments including:

- Making edible bird nests
- Observing new life in spring
- Making edible dirt
- The celery experiment
- The carnation flowers experiment

Visual Arts: This month, students' artwork will showcase Asia, spring, Easter, and insects. Projects will include the following:

- Thailand head pieces
- The Easter narrative
- Spring in God's creation
- Creating our own insects

Music: As we enter the final months of the school year, the Junior and Senior Kindergarten class will begin preparing repertoire for the spring concert. They will continue their unit on orchestral instruments, while also reviewing all they have learned throughout the year as well as continuing to build on their skills on the Orff instruments. Objectives include:

- Keeping a steady off-beat pulse on unpitched percussion instruments
- Mallet technique
- Repetitive patterns on the Orff instruments
- Percussion and string instruments of the orchestra

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:

- Travelling skills
- Responding to signals and changing modes
- Travelling on the spot (spatial awareness)
- Travelling with a partner (body awareness)
- Travelling using different body parts
- Travelling in patterns

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.