

April 2019

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

When Samantha was introduced to Classical Christian Education, she immediately recognized the value in its methodology and curriculum. Samantha has predominantly taught in the primary division and this year teaches the JK and SK class at Innova Academy. Samantha attended Tyndale College and University and graduated with a Bachelor of Education. Her goal was to teach in a Bible believing Christian School and she is excited to be teaching at Innova Academy. Samantha has been married to her husband, Andre, for over 20 years and they have three children. In her spare time, she is involved in her church choir and worship team and volunteers in the nursery. Her favourite Bible verses are Colossians 1:15-17.



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*Senior Kindergarten is a time of magical growth where children learn foundational knowledge and skills to develop a life-long love of learning. 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:** Each month, students will explore stories, poems, songs, chants, and hands-on activities related to the monthly themes. This month's themes are spring, Easter, and insects. Literature selections include, *Spring by Saviour Pirotta*, *Spring by Victoria Parker*, *God's Easter Plan by Carol Green*, *Jesus Enters Jerusalem by Jane Fryar*, and *Insects by Libby Romero*, *Insects by Barbara Taylor*. During daily read-aloud time, students will finish listening to the novel *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Using various tactile means as well as songs and chants, students will:

- Write in journals and practice spelling dictation
- Learn endings -s, -es, -ff, -ll, -ss, -zz, -all and compound words
- Review cursive letters *qu*, *a*, *c*, *d*, *g*, and *o*
- Retell the story and identify problems and solutions
- Story structures: Characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end
- Review all single-letter sounds, tri-graph *tch*, ending *ck*, and short vowels
- Learn vocabulary related to spring, Easter, and insects

**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

## SK – 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.

**Mathematics:** This month in mathematics, students will begin to explore numbers using various hands-on manipulatives, songs, and chants. Topics this month include:

- Numbers 0 – 100
- Patterns: Identify, complete, and create
- Number Facts: Compose and decompose up to 10 and up to 20
- Counting forwards and backwards to 20

**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.