

February 2020

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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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.



Mrs. 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 / Logic: Through discussion, reading, and film, students will continue to examine the tenets of the Christian worldview and how they compare to the doctrines of the leading non-Christian worldviews of our day. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life. During the month of February, students will focus on the following "keys to understanding":

- Key question: How should we behave?
- Key Idea: God is concerned about our inner attitudes as well as our outward actions. We discover what is moral by learning about God's character and how He has made us and the world.
- Key Terms: Ethics, individual moral relativism, cultural moral relativism, moral absolutes
- Key Verses: Matthew 22:37-39 and Colossians 3:17

In addition, students will also continue in the conflict resolution discussion, examining how to prevent conflict. Students will study the importance of guarding their mouths and thinking before they speak.

History/Geography: In history this month, students will continue our unit titled "Wars of Modern Times and the Hope of Mankind, 1948 – Date Unknown". Specific lessons in the month of February include:

- The Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis
- The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
- The United States Enters the Vietnam War
- The Life and Death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Literature: During the month of February, students will listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about various short stories. Stories will include:

- "To Build a Fire" by Jack London
- "The Lady, or the Tiger" by Frank R. Stockton
- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson

Writing: This month, students will continue to apply rhetorical techniques learned from analyzing famous speeches to the original speeches they are composing for the upcoming in-class, school, and ACSI speech meets. The following criteria will be assessed:

- Rhetorical appeals: logos, pathos, ethos
- Rhetorical devices: hyperbole, anaphora, epistrophe, hypophora, and various forms of parallelism
- Revising and editing
- Presentation skills: enunciation, eye contact, appropriate gestures, engaging the audience, tone

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. Specific lessons in grammar this month will include:

- Active and passive voice
- Transitive and intransitive verbs
- Intensive and reflexive pronouns
- Demonstrative and interrogative pronouns and adjectives

Mathematics: This month in mathematics, students will be completing their 6th unit: Functions. Topics studied include:

- Understanding Relations and Functions

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.

- Understanding Linear and Nonlinear Functions
- Comparing Two Functions

Science: Students will finish their work on the properties of substances before beginning a unit on electricity. Students will learn the following:

- The nature of electricity
- Static electricity
- How electric currents work
- Ohm's law
- Series and parallel circuits

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will learn the following Latin and Greek words and their derivatives:

- Homo/hominis (L) - man, human being
- Anthropos (G) - man, mankind, humankind
- Vir (L) - man, manly, masculine
- Femina (L) - woman
- Infans/infantis (L) - inability to speak
- Pais/paidos - child

French: This month, students will continue to review and practice conjugating verbs in the present tense. Students will:

- Read chapters 11 to 14 of *Le Petit Prince* and answer reading comprehension questions
- Participate in classroom activities to improve spontaneous communication
- Answer questions about *Le Chat Angora* in writing and during classroom activities

Visual Arts: Students will look at the art of Andy Warhol and create prints in the Pop Art style. Specific artwork will include:

- Carving relief blocks
- Making multiple prints to create a repeated image.

Music: In February, grade 8 students will have a heavier emphasis on handchimes. They will tackle more difficult repertoire which requires concentration and a strong knowledge of rhythm and reading notes. They will also work through sight singing and rhythm reading exercises and begin their choral repertoire for the spring. Specific skills include:

- Ear training
- Rhythm reading
- Choral technique
- Sight singing

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

- Ball handling
- Shooting (lay-ups and jump-shots)
- Court spacing and offensive strategies

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

Upcoming Events

February 3 – ACSI JR Boys' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Toronto
February 5 – ACSI JR Girls' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Scarborough
February 7 – Exordium and Literature Day (All Grades) – North Campus
February 10 – Parent Night (All Parents) – South Campus
February 14 – PD Day – No School for Students
February 17 – Family Day – No School
February 20 – In-School Speech Meet
February 27 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga

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