

February 2020

The Month Ahead

At Innova



Junior Kindergarten
Miss Melinda Morris
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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.



Miss Melinda Morris
Teacher

Junior
Kindergarten

Junior 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: In Junior Kindergarten, the overarching theme is God's care and love for His people. The Old Testament stories introduce students to biblical characters in a way that shows how God displayed his love and care for them. In the New Testament, Jesus's life and ministry gives us examples of His love and kindness, and His miracles reveal His power and authority as God. This month, topics include:

- Esther Saves Her People
- Jesus Visits the Temple
- Jesus and Nicodemus
- Jesus Chooses His Disciples
- Jesus Blesses the children
- Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman
- Jesus Heals the blind, deaf, lame, and lepers

Memory Verse: John 3:16 ESV "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Language Arts: With the use of various tactile means, songs, games, and chants, students will practice proper letter formation and pronunciation. This month, students will:

- Learn the short vowel sounds of *e*, *i* and *u*
- Learn the beginning and/or ending sounds of the letters found in words: *ch*, *th*, *k*, *v*, *r*, *y*
- Learn to put phrases together to make sentences
- Learn and practice blends: *th* and *ch*

Culture/Geography: Students will learn about India and Saudi Arabia. Objectives for this month include:

- Locating India and Saudi Arabia on a map as well as identifying Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia
- Recognizing India and Saudi Arabia in the continent of Asia
- Learning about the Taj Mahal, spices of India, the importance of elephants in their culture, and how to say hello in Hindi (Namaste)
- Learning about clothing (kaftan and ghutra) in Saudi Arabia and how to say hello in Arabic (Salam)

Mathematics: Students will learn to recognize and say their numbers through songs and chants and use various tactile means to practice proper number formation. This month's

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.

focus is the continuation of complex patterning and an introduction to complex shapes. Students will learn about:

- Identifying and complex comparing of numbers 11-20
- Complex measurement
- Measuring, comparing, and ordering height

Science: This month in science, students will discover the topics of matter, energy, and hibernation. They will explore various hands-on activities and experiments and learn about:

- Matter and space
- Freezing temperatures
- Hibernation
- Canadian animals that hibernate during the winter
- Animals that live in the Arctic

Art: Students will focus on drawing people and faces using simple shapes. They will also learn how to use stencil printmaking to create a Valentine's card for someone special. Emphasis this month will be on:

- Line and Texture: Using a variety of lines to create textures
- Shape: Using simple shapes to build pictures

Music: Students will continue to practice their skills with unpitched percussion and singing. This month, there will be a stronger emphasis on pitch matching, keeping a steady pulse, and understanding rhythmic notation. More specifically, students will explore:

- Half notes and half rests
- Good singing tone and correct pitch matching
- Rhythmic patterns on unpitched percussion instruments
- The cello

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:

- Skill building activities around kicking and dribbling
- Using bean bags and large and small balls
- Kicking to targets

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.