

March 2020

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 5

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

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Adele first encountered classical education through reading Susan Wise Bauer's book *The Well-Trained Mind*. While home educating her three children, she quickly adopted the classical method and her enthusiasm increased as she saw the fruit of the methodology in her children's progress. As one of the founding families of Innova Academy, Adele is thrilled to see the vision of a classical, Christian school become a reality. She currently serves as the Grade 5 and 6 teacher at Innova.

Besides home educating, Adele has taught Grades 5 and 6, Kindergarten to Grade 8 music, and worked as a special education resource and enrichment teacher in both public and private schools.



Mrs. Adele  
McLaughlin  
Teacher

Grade 5 and  
Grade 6

Grade 5 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:** This month, students will conclude their study of the Later Judean Ministry, examining the hope this brings us today. Students will:

- Examine the cost of discipleship, discussing practical ways we can serve today
- Study Jesus' power, compassion, humility, and authority displayed through His teachings and interactions with others while He walked this earth
- Memorize Philippians 2:5-8

**History/Geography:** This year, history study focuses on Canadian history from 1400 to 1800. This month, students will focus on:

- Geography: The Pacific states of the United States
- Exploration to the heart of the continent: Sieur de La Vérendrye

**Literature:** This month, students will continue to study the novel *Madeleine Takes Command* by Ethel Brill. This historical novel, set in 17th century New France, tells the story of Madeleine de Vercheres, a teenage girl, who takes up arms in defense of family, country, and faith against an attack on her family's seigneurie by the Iroquois. Students will:

- Discuss historical context, map plot development, explore themes, predict outcomes
- Identify literary devices
- Discuss biblical application

**Writing:** This month, students will write a research report using multiple sources. Students will:

- Use three or more references to take outline notes
- Combine outlines and write a summary from the fused outline
- Continue to build and apply stylistic elements
- Document their references

**Spelling:** Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and understanding and applying spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Analyze weekly spelling words
- Write well-constructed sentences to practice grammar skills and illustrate the meaning of weekly spelling words

**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. This month's grammar study focuses on:

- Proofreading
- Identifying parts of prepositional phrases
- Identifying prepositional phrases that describe subject, objects, verbs, and objects of the preposition
- Diagramming sentences

## Grade 5 – 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.

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

- Learn and use English derivatives related to the Latin words *arm* (army, weapon) and *fen* (strike)
- Learn and use English derivatives related to the Greek word *cid/cis* (cut off, kill, briefly)

**French:** This month, students will begin working on retelling the story of *Louis la grenouille* in their own words. Students will:

- Listen to the story *Le Lion et la Souris* and answer questions about the story
- Continue to practice conjugating verbs in the present tense
- Answer questions about the play *Louis la Grenouille*

**Mathematics:** This month, grade 5 students will complete their study of ratios. They will then complete a review of chapters 1 to 7. Students will practice:

- Comparing three quantities
- Solving word problems involving ratios

**Science:** In March, students will investigate the diversity of living things. Students will discover the greatness of God's creative design for life as they examine the multitude of creatures that reflect intelligent design and purpose in creation. Areas of study will include:

- Fish, amphibians, and reptiles
- Birds and mammals
- Invertebrates
- Plants and how they make their own food

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will focus on Canadian art by The Group of Seven. Inspired by the artists, students will select a painting to reproduce in acrylic on canvas. Specific attention will be placed on the composition of their painting, with a focus on the following elements of design:

- Line
- Shape/form
- Space and colour

**Music:** The grade 5 music class continues to progress in their choral singing, note reading, and ukulele ensemble. This month, there will be a heavier emphasis on choir as we prepare for the festival competition in April. Specific items covered include:

- Chords in B flat on the ukulele
- Spring concert repertoire for ukulele and choir
- Choral singing skills and repertoire

**Physical Education:** In physical education, students will begin a unit on badminton. Specific skills covered this month will include:

- Serving technique
- Over-head clear
- Drop-shots

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

## Upcoming Events

March 2 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival - Mississauga

March 2-6 – House Basketball Intramurals (Gr. 5-10) – South Campus

March 4 – Royal Ontario Museum (Gr. 3/4 and 9/10)

March 9-20 – March Break – No School

March 24 – Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Gr. 5-10) – Roy Thomson Hall

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