

October 2020

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 6

Miss Melanie Pretorius

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Melanie graduated *summa cum laude* from York University with an honours bachelor's degree of arts in French studies and Spanish and a Bachelor of Education.

Melanie has her intermediate/senior qualifications in French and Spanish and completed her TEFL training at the University of Toronto. She has formerly taught French to students in grades 3-9 and Latin to grades 6-8 at Innova Academy. Her experience also includes teaching various subjects at other Christian schools in York Region and abroad. Melanie has also tutored students in grades 3-12 in math, science, English, French, and history. She serves as a "big sister" to youth in Georgina and serves on the prayer, Alpha, and guest services teams at her church. In her spare time, Melanie enjoys going for walks, baking, reading, and travelling.



Miss Melanie Pretorius
Teacher

Grade 6

Grade 6 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 continue to memorize Matthew 5:1-16 (The Beatitudes) and will learn about Jesus' death as described in the Gospels. Students will study the history of various men and women of the faith through Christian biographies. Through each biography, students will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of early Christians and the early church
- Develop a deeper insight of ordinary people trusting in an extraordinary God

Literature: This month, students will learn about poetry in different forms, as well as the elements of poetry. The grade 6 poetry unit focuses on:

- The difference between a poem and a story
- The elements of poetry (form, rhythm, sound, imagery)
- Figurative language

Writing: Students will continue to strengthen their writing foundation by converting story outlines into written paragraphs and will practice pulling specific information from stories in order to write summaries, book reports, and critiques. Students will:

- Become independent in the process of making key word outlines, summarizing from their own notes, and rewriting final drafts
- Identify the story sequence in a narrative story
- Make outlines based on their story sequence chart
- Summarize stories from outlines and internalize the components of a well-constructed story

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

- Analyze weekly spelling words drawn from the class list and student writing
- Review and practice the 1-1-1 rule

Grammar: This year, students will be using the IEW grammar program titled *Fix It! Grammar*. In this program, students will hunt for and correct errors in daily passages that cumulatively tell a story. October's study focuses on:

- Adjectives, nouns of direct address, *-ly* adverbs, and prepositions
- Homophones such as then/than and your/you're
- Quotations
- Subject and clause identification

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek vocabulary using the *Get to the Root of It!* curriculum. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek roots. This month, students will learn words derived from the following six roots:

- Geo (G) - Earth
- Aer (G) - air, atmosphere
- Pyr (G) - heat, fire
- Viv/vit (L) - life, alive
- Mort (L) - death
- Nat/nasc (L) - born, birth

Grade 6 – 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.

French: In French this month, students will continue to review gestured vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and study the play *Boucles Violettes*. Students will:

- Continue to work toward speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts
- Review the alphabet and numbers 1-50 in French
- Begin to practice and memorize the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Begin memorizing the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) in French

History/Geography: This year, history study focuses on world history from 1450 to 1800. This month, the focus is:

- The Renaissance
- Martin Luther and the Reformation
- King Henry VIII

Mathematics: Students in Grade 6 will explore the concept of negative numbers, the significance of the absolute value of a number, and applying basic operations to fractions and decimals. They will learn to:

- Understand the relationship of negative numbers to positive numbers
- Represent, compare, and order positive and negative numbers on a number line
- Multiply and divide decimals and fractions
- Utilize negative numbers, decimals, and fractions to represent and solve real-world problems

Science: Science provides us with unique ways of seeing God's creative presence in the world. Students will continue to learn about the immune and nervous systems. They will explore the following topics:

- Communicable and noncommunicable diseases
- How various medicines help the immune system
- How the nervous system works
- Injuries and chemicals that affect the nervous system
- How to care for the immune and nervous systems

Visual Arts: Over the course of this year students will learn about the elements and principles of design. They will also learn about Italian Renaissance art. Students will learn art making techniques using a variety of art forms including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Areas of study include:

- Qualities of line found in making relief prints
- Shape and form including geometric and organic shapes in sculpture

Music: In music, the grade 6 class will continue developing their skill on the ukulele, as well as continue history and music literacy practice. These will include:

- History: Bach
- Terms: andante, allegro, presto, largo
- Treble and bass clef notes
- Ukulele

Physical Education: This month, students will begin their unit on ultimate frisbee. Students will begin each class with a run to improve endurance as well as utilize proper technique and timing for stretching. Students will also:

- Understand the history of the sport and its benefits
- Learn how to properly hold and throw a frisbee
- Grow in encouraging their classmates and working together as a team

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

Upcoming Events

October 8 – Curriculum Night – Via Zoom
October 9 – PD Day – No school for students
October 12 – Thanksgiving Day – No School
October 30 – Walk Through History Day AND
October 30 – Interim Reports Go Home

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