

November 2020

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 6

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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 learn about Jesus' death, followed by a new unit on Jesus' resurrection. Students will also study the life of Martin Luther, John Bunyan, and Jonathan Edwards. Topics of study include:

- Jesus' journey to Golgotha
- Jesus' crucifixion
- Jesus' burial
- The empty tomb

Literature: This month, students will finish the unit on poetry and begin reading and discussing the historical novel *I, Juan de Pareja*, which tells the story of an African slave living in Spain in the early seventeenth century. Topics this month include:

- Poetic devices (personification, simile, metaphor, alliteration, repetition, refrain)
- Stanza, rhyme scheme, metre, and rhythm (iambic, trochee, anapest)
- Literary response (comprehension, inference, opinion, making connections)

Writing: Students will finish the unit on summarizing narrative stories and will begin a unit on summarizing a reference. Students will:

- Make outlines based on a story sequence chart
- Summarize stories from outlines and internalize the components of a well-constructed story
- Learn to find reading material on a topic, take notes, and write a summary
- Document references and report what they found and where they found it

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 drawn from the class list and student writing
- Write well-constructed sentences to practice grammar skills and illustrate the meaning of weekly spelling words
- Review and practice the ie/ei rule

Grammar: This year, students are 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. *Fix It! Grammar* encourages students to apply new grammar knowledge in context, aiding in the transfer of grammar skills to their own writing. This month's grammar study focuses on:

- Main and dependent clauses
- Clausal starters
- Lie vs. lay
- Sentence openers: subject, prepositional phrase, and -ly adverb
- Combining sentences with a who-which clause

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:

- Viv/vit (L) – life, alive
- Mort (L) – death
- Nat/nasc (L) – born, birth
- Capit/cipit (L) – head
- Manu (L) – hand
- Ped (L) – foot

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:

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts
- Practice and begin to memorize the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Answer questions about the play orally and in writing
- Continue 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, students will complete a cumulative assignment on their study of the Protestant Reformation and begin a new unit titled "The New Universe". Topics discussed this month include:

- Copernicus and Galileo
- The motivation and lives of explorers
- The Aztecs and Incas
- The Slave Trade

Mathematics: Students in grade 6 will extend concepts learned about fractions and ratios and begin exploring the concepts of rates and percent. Topics covered in these units include:

- Interpreting ratios given in fraction form
- Writing equivalent ratios and ratios in simplest form
- Comparing ratios
- Using the unitary method and bar models to find rates and unit rates
- Applying these methods to real-world problems involving rates
- Understanding the relationships between equivalent fractions, decimals, and percent

Science: Science provides us with unique ways of seeing God's creative presence in the world. This month, the grade 6 students will begin to learn about the diversity of life. They will explore the following topics:

- The similarities and differences between living things
- How living things are classified
- The specific characteristics of different groups of living things

Visual Arts: This month, students will design Remembrance Day posters and begin a drawing unit. Areas of study include:

- Poster design - the theme of Remembrance Day
- The message through images, Canadian symbols, and words
- Drawing basics focusing on the following elements of design line: shape, space, colour, value, and texture

Music: In music, the grade 6 class will begin preparing ukulele repertoire for the Christmas concert in December. They will also study world music. Lessons will include:

- Key signatures
- Terms: grave, moderato, prestissimo, vivace
- Christmas repertoire
- Ukulele
- Indonesian, African, and Indian music

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

- Compete in 5 versus 5 ultimate frisbee games
- Continue to discuss the 'spirit of the game' practicing encouragement, honesty, and teamwork
- Participate in group games to encourage endurance, teamwork, and sportsmanship

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

Upcoming Events

- November 2 – Picture Day Retakes – Both campuses
- November 5 – Interim Parent/Teacher Check-in via Zoom
- November 6 – Biblical Parenting Book Study via Zoom
- November 11 – Remembrance Day Chapel
- November 13 – High School Semester 1 Midterms Go Home
- November 20 – Biblical Parenting Book Study via Zoom

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