

December 2020

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1

Miss Tiffany Gray

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Tiffany holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alberta, a diploma in Early Childhood Education, and TESOL certification. She has worked overseas in South Korea and the UK as a grammar stage teacher. Tiffany has also worked as an educational assistant for children with special needs. Her love for the classical model grew after she was introduced to it by a fellow teacher and friend. Tiffany grew up in Hamilton and just recently moved to the Newmarket area. When Tiffany is not teaching, she can be found reading, enjoying time at the beach with her dog Zoey, serving in various ministries at church, and spending time with family.



Miss Tiffany Gray
Teacher

Grade 1

Grade 1 students are actively engaged in learning foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. We seek to provide a safe and nurturing classroom environment where students can deepen their awareness of God's love and relationship with Him, as well as meet their potential for academic success.

Bible: In grade 1, students move beyond the study of individual Bible characters to see how God's people and their leaders were part of God's plan for the salvation of His people. While focusing on God's perfect creation, students move through the introduction of sin into the world, the covenants God made with His people, and how He kept His promises despite the people's unfaithfulness. Areas of study this month include:

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- The three visitors
- Sodom and Gomorrah
- Isaac's birth and Ishmael's response
- Unit review

History and Geography: Grade 1 students explore Canadian history and geography, including the map and symbols of Canada, the pioneers, and famous Canadians. Our focus this month is our third unit: Symbols of Canada, and fourth unit: Our Government. Topics include:

- Our Coat of Arms
- Canada's Queen
- Government of Canada
- Voting in Canada
- Ottawa, our capital

Literature: In literature this month, students will study two novels: *Dr. DeSoto* and *Frog and Toad are Friends*. Students will:

- Sequentially retell the story
- Discuss the themes of trickery, stewardship, and friendship
- Construct a missing teeth class chart
- Write an original fiction or non-fiction tooth story
- Write a friendly letter demonstrating effective listening skills
- Make a Venn diagram reflecting likenesses and differences

Spelling: This month, students will cover sections *G* and *H* of our SWR spelling program. Students will:

- Review and learn new phonograms: *ea, ee, ng, oo, or, ow, th, igh, ie, dge, ti, ci, si, tch, and wr*
- Compose original sentences
- Practice editing rules
- Use spelling words to create compound words
- Recall essential parts of a story (beginning, middle, end)
- Convert words from present tense to past tense
- Alphabetize their spelling words

Writing: In writing this month, students will study winter themed poems and short stories and complete writing activities based on them. Students will:

- Identify story elements
- Outline the story sequence in a narrative story
- Retell the content of a paragraph using only an outline
- Summarize stories and internalize the components of a well-constructed story

Grade 1 – 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.

- Create outlines orally based on the story sequence chart
- Know that each paragraph has a purpose
- Understand the use of quotation marks

Latin: The grade 1 class will study various items used and seen in their daily lives. Latin topics covered include:

- Classroom commands: sit, rise/stand up, write, repeat
- Review of all vocabulary learned thus far

Mathematics: This month in mathematics, students will focus on Chapter 7: Numbers to 20. Areas of study include:

- Counting to 20
- Place Value
- Comparing numbers
- Making patterns and ordering numbers
- Review of units learned thus far

Science: Over the course of this month, students will engage in study related to animals, insects, and their habitats. Students will explore the following topics:

- Creepy Crawlies (invertebrates)
- Habitats (cactus desert)
- Reptiles
- Flying Insects

Visual Arts: This month, students will celebrate Christmas by painting a nativity scene in watercolour and design Christmas cards. Students will:

- Study colour by creating a monochromatic painting
- Study value by adding black to a colour to create shading
- Learn how to draw the human figure

Music: In music class, grade 1 students will build on their knowledge of Orff technique. They will also review music notation, form, and conducting. Lessons will include:

- Mallet technique
- Simple borduns on Orff instruments
- Christmas repertoire
- Music notation: review rhythm and C4-G5

Physical Education: Our physical education unit for the month of December centers on Christmas themed games. Students will explore:

- Good sportsmanship
- What kind of games help my heart grow healthy?
- Healthy and unhealthy food choices
- Using a variety of locomotor skills to travel in personal and general space

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

Upcoming Events

December 4 – Biblical Parenting Book Study via Zoom
December 17 – Innova Online Christmas Concert – At 7:00 p.m.
December 18 – Classes Dismissed at Noon for Christmas Break
December 23 – January 1 – Christmas Break!

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