

December 2020

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

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  
Miss Melinda Morris  
mmorris@innovaacademy.ca



*Our Junior Kindergarten program is designed to inspire children to have a lifelong 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 took care of His people. This month, topics include:

- Samuel
- David and Goliath
- Christmas: The Angel's Visit
- Christmas: The Shepherd and the Angels
- Christmas: The Birth of Jesus

**Memory verse:** Luke 2:11 ESV "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

**Language Arts:** Students are learning to identify letters of the alphabet and their respective sounds. With the use of various tactile means, songs, and chants, students practice proper letter formation. This month, students will explore the following:

- Phonics: letter sounds of *b, f, g, j, s, w, z, l*; long *a* and *o*; short *i*
- Identify beginning, ending, and individual sounds in words
- Proper letter formation of the lower-case letters *j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r* and tracing the upper-case letters *R-Z* and *A-G*
- Distinguish between words that rhyme and words that do not rhyme
- Learn and practice blends
- Read aloud from various books

**World Culture & Geography:** Students will learn basic geographic landforms and where they live in relation to the world. This month, students will explore:

- Asia - living in China
- Israel - the land where Jesus was born

**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 focus is on comparing numbers and measurement. Students will:

- Compare a set of numbers to determine which is more, less, or the same
- Build sets and write the matching number
- Measure and compare sizes using the words big and small and bigger and smaller
- Order sizes using the words biggest and smallest

## 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.

- Measure length using the words long and short

**Science:** This month in science, students will perform various hands-on activities and experiments as they learn about:

- The solar system - the planets
- Gravity
- The moon and how it shines
- Craters and asteroids

**Visual Arts:** This year, JK students will be introduced to the 7 elements of design - colour, line, shape, texture, form, space, and value. They will learn to incorporate these elements into their artwork, and practice identifying these elements in various classical works of art and in God's creation. JK students will explore a range of art materials, techniques, and vocabulary to develop their art-making skills, while examining art from different cultures and time periods. Students will:

- Continue exploring the element of Texture
- Incorporate perspective into the formation of winter-themed art
- Christmas activities: Nativity and Christmas tree artwork
- Introduce clay and/or sponging
- Discuss and reflect on art portfolios for term 1

**Music:** In music class, students will continue to expand their repertoire, practice keeping the pulse, and recognizing the difference between elements of music such as fast and slow or low and high. They will also learn about instruments and take part in active listening. Classes will include:

- Pulses with stresses
- Movement to music
- Instruments: Trumpet

**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, topics are:

- Overhand throwing using large balls
- One and two hand overhand throwing
- Underhand and overhand throwing with partners

*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.