

January 2021

# 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:** Grade 1 students will begin a new unit focusing on Isaac and Jacob. This unit continues the study of the patriarchs with an emphasis on Jacob. Jacob's choices were often unwise and harmed others. However, God used Jacob to fulfill His promises to Abraham and Isaac. The promises of salvation and eternal life also extend to us as God's children. Areas of study this month include:

- A wife for Isaac
- Jacob and the birthright
- Jacob and the blessing
- Jacob on the run
- Jacob in Paddan Aram
- Jacob's escape from Laban

**History and Geography:** Grade 1 students explore Canadian history and geography, including the map and symbols of Canada, the pioneers, and famous Canadians. Students will finish a study of Canada's government and then discuss freedoms in Canada. Topics include:

- Taxes
- Ottawa, Canada's capital
- Freedoms in Canada
- The Canadian Armed Forces

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

- Write a friendly letter
- Determine the main idea of the story and retell the story in sequential order
- Compare and contrast the main characters
- Write effectively about the story
- Discuss characteristics of a "good" detective, how being a good detective can help us in our daily life, and being "Bible detectives"
- Discuss the qualities of a good friend and a friendship with God

**Spelling:** This month, students will cover sections H-1 and H-2 of our SWR program. Students will:

- Be introduced to new phonograms: *ti, si, ci, tch, igh, ei, ey, and ph*
- Review compound words
- Write original sentences using spelling words
- Alphabetize spelling words

**Writing and Grammar:** In writing and grammar this month, students will begin Unit 3: Retelling Narrative Stories. Poems include: *Every Little Elf, The Snowman, Mr. Snowman, and Snowbird*. Students will:

- Identify characters, setting, and the story sequence in a narrative story and recall important parts of a story (beginning, middle, end)
- Discuss the plot and problem and identify the climax and resolution
- Create outlines orally based on the story sequence chart
- Summarize stories from outlines and internalize the components of a well-constructed story
- Know that each paragraph has a purpose and write a 3-paragraph story with help
- Review nouns and verbs

## 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.

- Practice dictation and editing rules

**Latin:** The grade 1 class will continue to study various commands used at school as well as words and phrases related to manners and finish with a review in chapter 13. Latin vocabulary studied this month includes:

- listen, be quiet
- open the book, raise your hand
- please, thank you, excuse me

**Mathematics:** This month in mathematics, students will focus on Chapter 8: Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20, and Chapter 9: Length. Areas of study include:

- Using different strategies to add 1- and 2-digit numbers
- Subtracting a 1-digit from a 2-digit number with and without regrouping
- Solving real world problems
- Comparing two lengths in various ways
- Measuring length using non-standard units
- Understanding that using different non-standard units may give different measurements for the same item

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

- Cactus desert
- Flying insects
- Forests
- Mammals of the forest

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will focus on drawing skills. They will learn about creating the illusion of a 3-dimensional space on two-dimensional paper. Students will study the following art terms: horizon line, foreground, middle ground, background and explore the following elements of design:

- Line: lines to define shapes and space
- Shape: focus on organic shapes found in nature
- Space: size, placement, position, overlapping, and details
- Colour: mixing of primary colours

**Music:** In January, the grade 1 class will expand their knowledge of the solfege scale, particularly the pentatonic scale. They will begin broken borduns on the Orff instruments and continue to work on their ensemble technique. We will also learn a new musical genre and instrument group. Classes will address:

- Verse and refrain
- Practice percussion borduns
- Music notation
- Jazz
- Listening: "Autumn Leaves"

**Physical Education:** Our physical education unit for the month of January centers on deck rings, lummi stick fun, and hoop play. Students will explore:

- Hand-eye coordination
- Explore and discover ways to manipulate deck rings and lummi sticks to develop visual tracking
- Relay races, running, jumping, and rolling with hula hoops
- Balancing inside the hoop

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

## Upcoming Events

January 4 – Online Training/Orientation and Curriculum Pick-Up  
January 5-8 – Classes Resume Online After Christmas Break  
January 11 – Elementary Classes Resume In-Person  
January 22 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports sent home  
January 25-28 – High School Evaluation Days  
January 28-29 – Parent Teacher Interviews (mandatory)  
January 29 – P.D. Day – No school for students

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