

January 2021

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to the grammar stage of classical education's trivium. Melissa completed her teaching certification and Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and she currently serves as the Grade 7/8 teacher at Innova Academy. When she's not teaching, or involved with church, Melissa enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two boys. You can usually find them at a hockey rink, playing catch, or doing something active together.



Mrs. Melissa Gazmin
Teacher

Grade 7 and
Grade 8



Grade 8 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: In January, students will complete the study of the book of James. Students will:

- Discover the comfort we receive in suffering (James 5:7-12)
- Discuss being faithful verses faithless (James 5:13-20)
- Complete a 'Book of James' project to convey main points and takeaways of the book
- Memorize James 1:26-2:4

Logic: In January, students will complete their study of the logical fallacies that involve making assumptions. They will write their second logic test of the year on January 11th. Following the test, we will begin our study of the third category of fallacies known as "Statistical Fallacies".

Literature: During the month of January, students will listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about famous speeches that have been delivered throughout history. Students will understand what makes some speeches memorable and others not. As students listen to and read speeches, they will look for various forms of rhetorical devices which make these speeches effective. Specific speeches and lessons will include, but are not limited to:

- *Gettysburg Address* – Abraham Lincoln
- *Ain't I a Woman* – Sojourner Truth
- *I Have a Dream* – Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Rhetorical Devices: alliteration, allusion, anaphora, epistrophe, hyperbole, hypophora, metaphor, parallelism, repetition, simile
- Rhetorical Appeals: logos, pathos, ethos

Writing & Rhetoric: This month, students will use the skills they are learning in literature (giving an effective speech) and in history (the Confederation of Canada) and apply them to their writing as they prepare to compose historical monologues as one of the Fathers of Confederation. Along with the above rhetorical devices, students will also focus on the following:

- Conducting research
- Creating a detailed outline
- Drafting, revising, and editing
- Presenting

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. 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, focus will be placed on:

- Invisible prepositional phrase openers where the preposition *on* or *doing* is implied
- Imperative mood where the subject *you* is implied
- Deciding when to use commas with transitional prepositional phrase openers
- Essential and nonessential *who-which* clauses

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will continue learning both Latin and Greek root words with our English from the Roots Up curriculum. This month, students will learn words derived from the following roots:

- Dokein (G): think, have an opinion, suppose
- Orthos (G): straight; correct

Grade 8 – 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.

- Barbaros (G): foreign
- Bellum (L): war, combat, fight
- Laboro/Laboratum (L): work
- Ergon (G): work

French: During the month of January, students will continue to review French vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and study the play *Un frère pénible*. Students will:

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French
- Finish learning vocabulary and gestures related to the play
- Continue to practice and memorize *Un frère pénible*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Memorize selected verses from the first chapter of the book of James (*Jacques*)

History/Geography: Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how Canada became the great nation it is today. Focus for the month of January will be the events of Confederation. Specific lessons will answer the following questions:

- How were the politicians able to join the colonies together?
- How did the map of Canada change?
- How were the responsibilities of government divided between the federal and provincial governments?
- How is this organization reflected in our present-day government?

Mathematics: This month, students will complete the last chapter in Math in Focus Book A by turning their attention to Functions. Topics include:

- Understanding Relations and Functions
- Representing Functions
- Understanding Linear and Nonlinear Functions
- Comparing Two Functions

Visual Arts: This month, students will study early 19th century portraiture and learn how to draw the human figure and a portrait. Students will:

- Learn how to draw the human figure in correct proportion
- Learn about the proper placement of facial features in portraits

Music: In the new year, the grade 8 music class will continue to expand their knowledge of music notation and history and their skill working as an ensemble. Topics include:

- Form
- Grand staff
- Harmony and composition
- Theory: terms and intervals
- Active listening

Physical Education: This month, students will conclude their volleyball unit and begin a basketball unit. Students will:

- Review proper serving and bumping techniques
- Participate in a final volleyball game
- Gain an understanding of proper basketball terms
- Learn to properly dribble and pass a basketball

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.