

February 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: This month, students will begin to study the practice of spiritual disciplines. Students will:

- Explore the meaning and purpose of spiritual disciplines as outlined in God's Word
- Practice the discipline of study and prayer
- Discuss the joy (over the burden) of seeking Christ through disciplining ourselves for the purpose of godliness

Logic: Students will continue their study of logical fallacies using *The Fallacy Detective*. This month, students will transition from fallacies that involve making assumptions to common fallacies in the world of statistics. This will include:

- Hasty generalizations
- Weak analogies
- *Post hoc ergo propter hoc*
- Proof by lack of evidence

Literature: During the month of February, students will read and analyze "The Necklace", by Guy de Maupassant. This classic tale centers around Mme. Mathilde Loisel – a woman fated to her status in life. Instead of accepting her position in life, she feels cheated. She is selfish and self-involved, tortured, and angry that she can't purchase the jewels and clothing that she desires. Throughout our study of de Maupassant's short story, students will:

- Identify the elements of plot and narration
- Identify and apply literary terms related to characterization
- Understand how to use literary terminology accurately, including setting, character, conflict, plot, resolution, dialect, and point of view
- Understand an author's point of view or purpose
- Practice higher level thinking skills: predicting, inferring, analyzing, and synthesizing information
- Understand and practice using new vocabulary

Writing & Rhetoric: Using inspiration from the short story "The Necklace," students will implement story elements, rhetorical devices, and vocabulary learnt to aid them in composing original short stories. Specifically, students will focus on composing stories that contain the following:

- a moral
- an internal or external conflict
- a clear setting/time period
- dynamic and static characters
- dialogue
- narration with a specific point of view (omniscient, first person, or third person)

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, focus will be placed on:

- Properly using semicolons
- Clarity when using personal pronouns
- Correctly using quotations when composing a short story

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:

- Monos (G) - alone, solitary
- Solus (L) - alone, only

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.

- Fides (L) - faith, trust
- Vox/Vocis (L) - voice
- Loquor/Locutus (L) - speak

French: During the month of February, 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
- Use vocabulary and actions from the play in new contexts
- Continue to practice and memorize *Un frère pénible*
- Answer yes/no questions and open-ended questions about the play orally and in writing
- Memorize selected verses from the first chapter of the book of James (*Jacques*)

Mathematics: This month in mathematics, the grade 8 students will review all of Book A before moving on to Book B. Students will complete the cumulative review for:

- Chapters 5-6 (Systems of Linear Equations & Functions)
- Chapter 3-4 (Algebraic Linear Equations & Lines and Linear Equations)
- Chapters 1-2 (Exponents & Scientific Notation)

Science: In science this year, students will learn about the major subsystems of earth. The subsystems are broken into four spheres: lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, atmosphere. This month, students will examine the lithosphere focusing on following areas:

- Minerals
- Rock cycle
- Tectonic plates

Visual Arts: This month, students will continue their drawing unit. They will study animals, perspective, and still life found in Renaissance Art and make their own drawing of an animal, a scene in one-point perspective, and a still life. Areas of study include:

- Learning how to draw an animal
- Learning how to draw in one-point perspective
- Learning how to draw still life

Music: In February, the grade 8 students will focus on music history and composition as well as enjoy learning the art of Japanese Taiko drumming. Topics include:

- Japanese Taiko drumming ensemble
- Harmony and voice leading
- Composition
- The composers and style of the classical era of music

Physical Education (If Learning Virtually): Students will continue to learn juggling to improve their hand eye coordination while exercising at home. They will also continue to complete their winter bingo activity card by participating in various winter activities to build physical fitness. Students will:

- Practice throwing, tracking, and catching multiple objects
- Practice hand-eye coordination and use of peripheral vision to track moving objects
- Build physical fitness and endurance

Physical Education (If Learning in-Person): Students will develop basketball skills and utilize them to play physically distanced basketball games. Students will:

- Engage in basketball drills to practice passing, dribbling, and shooting
- Grow in their teamwork and communication through physically distanced basketball activities and games

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

Upcoming Events

February 1 – High School Semester 2 Begins

February 5 – Re-Application Early Bird Deadline

February 12 – PD Day – No School

February 15 – Family Day – No School

February 16 – Post-Secondary Application Process & Planning Session –
Online 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.