

January 2019

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1

Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

hdimarco@innovaacademy.ca

Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grade 1 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco  
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.

**Christian Education:** During the month of January, students will study the beginning of Jesus' ministry. They will also memorize Psalm 139:1-10. Throughout the month, students will focus on:

- John the Baptist
- Jesus' baptism
- Jesus' temptation
- Jesus calling His disciples
- The Sermon on the Mount
- Jesus sending out the disciples

**Reading Fluency:** Grade 1 students' reading instruction is individualized based on individual reading assessments. Students will build and refine oral reading fluency and reading comprehension skills by reading in both large and small groups, individually, and at home. Throughout the year, students will:

- Apply phonics skills to reading unfamiliar words
- Continue to build sight word proficiency
- Read clearly with expression observing punctuation
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Draw inferences from the text

**Literature and Vocabulary:** In January, students will read and compare various books about snowmen. They will also continue to study classic stories, using *K12 Classics for Young Readers* anthology as their primary resource. The snowmen collections include:

- *Snowmen at Night*
- *Snowmen at Work*
- *The Snow Globe Family*

**Spelling, Phonics, and Penmanship:** Spelling, phonics, and penmanship will be learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will practice their spelling words and learn the following phonograms:

- Learn 10-15 new spelling words each week
- Use those 10-15 spelling words to construct sentences each week
- Learn the following multi-letter phonograms: *er, ir, ur, ear, wor, igh, ie, dge, and wr*

**Grammar and Writing:** In January, students will begin to write a personal narrative. They will also continue their study of verbs. Students will:

- Understand the structure of a personal narrative
- Use a graphic organizer to record ideas, then compose and revise their own personal narrative
- Distinguish between plural and singular verb forms
- Identify when to use give or gave, see or saw, write or wrote

**Latin:** In Latin this month, Grade 1 students will learn the following types of vocabulary words:

- Animals
- The body
- The face

## 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.

**History:** This year, students are studying Canada, focusing on Canada's geography, symbols, early settlers, and communities. This month, students will learn about the Wendat People. They will study:

- Where the Wendat lived
- What the Wendat ate
- Travel and tools of the Wendat
- Wendat ceremonies

**Mathematics:** Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the Calculadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. In the month of January, students will conclude a unit titled "Numbers to 20" and will begin studying "Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20." Specifically, students will learn:

- Ways to add
- Ways to subtract
- Real-world addition and subtraction problems

**Science:** In January, students will begin investigating changes during science class by examining the many changes that take place in our world. Students will investigate the following questions:

- How do people and families change?
- How does the sun affect the day and night?
- How do the stars seem to change?
- How does the moon change?
- How do weather patterns change?

**Visual Arts:** Students will begin the new year studying the art of the Group of Seven artists Franklin Carmichael and A. J. Casson. Students will learn to draw a landscape giving the illusion of space. They will then create a landscape collage showing layers of space. Areas of study will include:

- Foreground, middle ground, and background
- Space

**Music:** In January, Grade 1 students 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 vocal technique. Students will also learn a new musical genre and instrument group. Students will:

- Label verse and refrain
- Practice vocal and percussion borduns
- Practice music notation
- Listen to *Autumn Leaves* Jazz Standard
- Explore characteristics of jazz

**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's topics include:

- Kicking and dribbling skills in combination with small balls and beanbags
- Kicking and dribbling in a circuit
- Relay races involving kicking and dribbling

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

## Upcoming Events

January 7 – School Resumes

January 8 & 22 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome

January 24-31 – High School Evaluation Days

January 25 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports Sent Home

January 31 – Parent Teacher Interview Night

February 1 – PA Day – All Students – Parent Teacher Interviews

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