

January 2019

# 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.



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 a new study on the book of Colossians. In addition, students will begin to study apologetics. Students will be encouraged to:

- Discover who wrote the book of Colossians, the intended audience, the literary style, and the central themes of the book
- Begin memorizing Colossians 3:1-17
- Understand the meaning of 'apologetics' and why it is important to study

**Logic:** Students will continue their study of logic using *The Fallacy Detective* curriculum as they move from "avoiding the question" fallacies to "making assumption" fallacies. These include:

- Circular reasoning
- Equivocation
- Loaded questions

**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 about speeches and apply them to their writing as they prepare to compose their own original and effective speech. Along with the above rhetorical devices, students will also focus on the following:

- Choosing an effective topic
- Creating a detailed outline
- Conducting research
- Drafting, revising, and editing

**Grammar:** Grammar study develops the students' awareness and understanding of how the English language is structured. As students work through the grammar program, they apply their knowledge to writing in all subject areas. This month's unit will focus on identifying and correctly using pronouns. Lessons will focus on the following:

- Types of pronouns: personal, possessive, reflexive, relative, indefinite, demonstrative, interrogative, and intensive
- When to use *who* vs *whom*
- The difference between possessive adjectives and pronouns

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. This month's study focuses on the following:

- Greek and Latin words related to head, hand, and foot (capit/cipit, manu, ped)
- English derivatives related to head, hand, and foot

**French:** This month, students will learn cultural differences between France and Quebec. Additionally, students will:

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French

## 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.

- Work on written comprehensive activities
- Work on memorizing the play *Un frère pénible*
- Memorize the third of 10 gospel statements

**History/Geography:** During the month of January, students will continue their study of the struggle of mankind using *The Mystery of History* curriculum as the primary resource. Specific titles of lessons focusing on wars of independence and wars of ideologies will include:

- The Mexican War of Independence
- Simon Bolivar: Liberator of South America
- Brazil Emerges from a Colony to an Empire
- Karl Marx and the Communist Manifesto

**Mathematics:** Students will continue to study functions by understanding linear and nonlinear functions and by comparing two functions. They will then move onto the Pythagorean theorem - which describes the relationship between the three sides of a triangle. Topics include:

- The Pythagorean theorem and plane figures
- The distance formula
- The Pythagorean theorem and solids
- How to identify volumes of composite solids

**Science:** Students will investigate the wonder and complexity of the human body as they study its eleven organ systems. They will examine the anatomy and function of the following systems this month:

- Nervous
- Digestive
- Lymphatic
- Respiratory
- Circulatory
- Endocrine
- Excretory

**Visual Arts:** Students will begin the new year examining the work of Pablo Picasso. They will explore his varied styles and focus on cubism. Students will draw a portrait in the cubist style and then create a cubist portrait sculpture. Topics include:

- Cubism
- 3-dimensional art
- Shapes, form, and texture

**Music:** In the new year, the Grade 8 music class will continue to expand their knowledge of music notation and history, and refine their skills playing handchimes and singing. Topics covered include:

- Form
- The grand staff
- Handchimes – new repertoire
- Vocal technique
- Theory: terms and intervals
- Listening: *Liebesträume* by Liszt

**Physical Education:** This month, students will continue to learn about and play basketball. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Ball handling
- Best shooting practices
- Setting up plays

*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.