

February 2019

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 6

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

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Adele first encountered classical education through reading Susan Wise Bauer's book *The Well-Trained Mind*. While home educating her three children, she quickly adopted the classical method and her enthusiasm increased as she saw the fruit of the methodology in her children's progress. As one of the founding families of Innova Academy, Adele is thrilled to see the vision of a classical, Christian school become a reality. She currently serves as teaching vice principal, teaching Grades 5 and 6 at Innova. Besides home educating, Adele has taught Grades 5 and 6, Kindergarten to Grade 8 music, and worked as a special education resource and enrichment teacher in both public and private schools.



Adele McLaughlin
Teaching Vice
Principal

Grade 5 and
Grade 6

Grade 6 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 be studying Jesus' early ministry. Students will:

- Study the baptism of Jesus
- Discuss the temptation of Christ and what we learn from His response
- Look closely at the significance of the first miracle of Jesus
- Continue to memorize 1 John

Literature: This month, students will continue their study of the novel *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. Students will:

- Practice reading aloud with expression
- Study vocabulary from the novel
- Discuss plot development, character development, themes, literary devices, and biblical application
- Analyze quotes from the text

Writing: This month, students will revise and deliver their original speeches. They will focus on:

- Editing their speeches with attention to structure, clarity, and coherence
- Presentation skills including enunciation, volume, eye contact, appropriate gestures, and tone

Spelling: Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and understanding and applying spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Analyze weekly spelling words drawn from the class list and student writing
- Write well-constructed sentences to practice grammar skills and illustrate the meaning of weekly spelling words

Grammar: Grammar study develops 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 grammar study focuses on:

- Review of punctuation rules learned to date through editing exercises
- Troublesome words: sit/set, lie/lay, rise/raise
- Subject/verb agreement

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

- Learn English derivatives related to the Latin words *temp* (time), *loc* (place), *mob/mot* (move), *tract* (pull, draw), *tend, tens, tent* (stretch, give)
- Learn English derivatives related to the Greek word *chron* (time)

French: This month, students will begin retelling the story of *Boucles Violettes* in their own words.

Grade 6 – 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.

Students will:

- Continue to work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Continue memorizing the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Complete their memorization of the third of 10 gospel statements
- Answer questions about the play orally and in writing

History/Geography: This year, students will delve into world history spanning 1500 to 1800. They will finish their study of Japan before focusing on Africa and the spread of slavery. Topics discussed this month include:

- Japan's isolation: closed doors in the East
- Geography, culture, and societal structures of Africa
- The spread of slavery
- Queen Nzinga of Angola

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will continue to deepen their knowledge of algebra. They will explore the following as it relates to algebraic expressions:

- Identifying inequalities
- Using substitution to evaluate simple equations
- Solving simple equations using bar models and balance scales
- Solving simple equations in the context of "real-world" problems

Science: This month, students will finish a unit on motion and things that move. They will examine the following:

- Mechanical advantage
- The six simple machines
- The impact of machines on society

Visual Arts: Students will continue to study the high renaissance focusing on value and form. Students will:

- Complete their dramatic hand sculpture inspired by Michelangelo
- Draw a still life and focus on chiaroscuro (light and shadow)

Music: Starting in February through May, Grade 6 students will begin rehearsing the choral music and scenes for their upcoming spring musical *Malice in the Palace*. They will also begin to learn more complex ukulele music and refine their score reading abilities. Specific skills include:

- Acting skills
- Intervals
- Rhythm reading
- Choral technique

Physical Education: This month, students will finish playing basketball and then start badminton. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Stance
- Hitting techniques
- Court positioning
- Singles and doubles

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

Upcoming Events

February 4 – ACSI Jr. Boys Basketball Tournament – Toronto
February 5 & 19 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome
February 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Lunch Lady Lunch
February 8 – Exordium – Parents Welcome AND Pizza Lunch
February 15 – Walk Through Literature Day
February 20 – In-School Speech Meet
February 21 – Sr. Boys Basketball Tournament - Stouffville
February 22 – Pizza Lunch
February 28 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival - Mississauga

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