

April 2019

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 6

Mrs. Adele McLaughlin

amclaughlin@innovaacademy.ca

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 continue to study how the ministry of Jesus expanded, looking closely at:

- The power Jesus demonstrated over nature and mankind through forgiving and healing the paralytic and the miracle of the great catch of fish
- How Jesus used ordinary men to carry out His mission
- The authority Jesus demonstrated as he stood in direct conflict with the teachings and laws of the religious leaders
- Memorize 1 John 3:19-4:6

Literature and Writing: This month, students will continue their unit titled *Stuff and Nonsense* by reading excerpts from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* as well as poetry selections by Lewis Carroll, Ogden Nash, and Edward Lear. Students will:

- Describe characters based on speech, actions, and interactions with others
- Identify defining characteristics of the text
- Recognize author's purpose and devices, including language, organization, and structure
- Recognize author's tone
- Compare and contrast literary characters and selections
- Formulate opinions and personal response
- Compose well-reasoned and organized responses to questions
- Write original riddles and limericks

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
- Review and practice spelling rules

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:

- Transitive passive verbs
- Linking verbs, predicate adjectives, and predicate nouns
- Diagramming sentences

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 word *plur* (more)
- Learn English derivatives related to the Greek word *bio* (life), *photo* (light), *phil* (love), *multi*, *poly* (many), *mega* (million, great, large)

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.

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

- Continue to work on speaking exclusively in French
- Continue to memorize their lines from the play *Boucles Violettes*
- Complete their memorization of the sixth gospel statement
- Learn how to conjugate the second group of regular verbs in French
- Complete written and oral activities about the play in French

History/Geography: This year, students will delve into world history spanning 1500 to 1800. Topics discussed this month include:

- The geography of China
- Review of ancient and medieval China
- The rise of the Manchu
- The English Civil War

Mathematics: In the first half of April, Grade 6 students will apply what they have learned so far about finding the area of polygons (triangles, parallelograms, trapezoids) and circles, to a math project. The project will assess how well students can apply this knowledge to a practical situation as they are "contracted" in a fictitious scenario to design a new play structure for Innova Academy. In the latter half of April, students will begin a new unit centered on surface area and volume. We hope to also gain some experience with Innova's 3-D printer in studying these pyramids and prisms! Lesson objectives include:

- Recognizing nets of cubes, prisms, and pyramids
- Finding surface areas and volumes of prisms
- Finding surface areas of pyramids

Science: Students will continue their investigation of space. They will then start the study of plants and forestry. Topics include:

- The structure of plants
- Identification of plants
- The function and importance of plants

Visual Arts: Projects this month will be based on Renaissance art with a focus on line, texture, and colour. Students will:

- Draw a Renaissance building using pen and ink techniques
- Work on a group drawing project featuring the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci in which students will be given a section of the painting to enlarge using a grid and colour

Music: This month, the Grade 6 class will continue to expand their skills playing ukulele, read the treble clef staff, and sing in two-part harmony as well as practice the choral and acting parts for the spring musical. Specific topics include:

- F scale on ukulele
- Choral repertoire
- Chording on the ukulele

Physical Education: This month, students will continue to develop badminton skills. They will also learn some basics of competitive swimming including the following:

- Freestyle and breast stroke
- Starting on a block
- Flip turn

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

Upcoming Events

- April 2, 16 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome
- April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Lunch Lady Lunch
- April 5 – Lunch Lady Lunch Event
- April 8 – Gr. 7 Immunization Clinic AND House Spelling Bee Competition
- April 9 – Exordium – Parents Welcome
- April 12, 26 – Pizza Lunch
- April 15 – House Spelling Bee Competition
- April 18 – Women's Event and Open House
- April 19 & 22 – Good Friday & Easter Monday – No School
- April 29 – ACSI Badminton Tournament (Gr. 7/8) – Stouffville
- April 30 – Shaw Festival – Gr. 2-6, 9

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