

April 2019

The Month Ahead

At Innova

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

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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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 continue their study in apologetics. Students will:

- Focus on the questions 'Are miracles possible?' and 'Is Jesus God?'
- Prayerfully examine and discuss the meaning of Colossians 2:6-15
- Memorize Isaiah 53:1-8

Logic: Students will continue their study of statistical fallacies, focusing on what makes strong and weak generalizations and analogies, as well as the differences between these two categories of fallacies. Students will complete their study of statistical fallacies by reviewing the following fallacies:

- *Post hoc ergo propter hoc* ("after this, therefore because of this")
- Proof by Lack of Evidence

Literature: This month, students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Specific lessons will include:

- Characterization
- Similes and metaphors
- Descriptive writing
- Comprehension questions and analysis of text
- Digging deeper – making the text more personal by applying God's Word

Writing & Rhetoric: During the month of April, students will begin the necessary steps for writing a research paper. Focus will be placed on the following:

- Note taking
- Paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism
- When and how to cite sources
- Differentiating between reliable and unreliable sources
- Practice creating in-text citations and building a works cited list

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. During the month of April, students will apply diagramming skills learned to the following:

- Bible verses
- Passages from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

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 asking, demanding, and seeking
- English derivatives related to asking, demanding, and seeking

French: This month, students will finish rewriting the story "Un frère penible" using different words. Students will:

- Work towards exclusively speaking in French
- Work towards memorizing the play "Un frère penible"
- Continue to work on learning irregular verbs 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 writing and comprehension activities
- Complete their memorization of the sixth gospel statement
- Conjugate avoir in the passé composé

History/Geography: Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how Canada became the great nation it is today. Focus for the month of April will address issues that drew the BNA colonies together. Specific lessons will focus on:

- Economic factors affecting BNA
- Transportation in BNA
- Defense issues
- Political issues affecting the Canadas

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will be completing a unit on statistics. Topics covered include:

- Scatter plots
- Identifying outliers
- Finding a line of best fit, writing its equation, and using it to make predictions
- Two-way tables

Science: Students will investigate the weather, including weather patterns and fronts as well as severe weather including:

- Lightning storms
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes

Visual Arts: Art projects this month will be based on post-impressionism and Canadian architecture with a focus on line, texture, and colour. Students will:

- Draw a building still standing in Toronto today that dates back to the late 1700 to mid 1800s using pen and ink techniques
- Work on a group drawing project featuring "Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh with each student given a section of the painting to enlarge using a grid and colour

Music: This month, the Grade 7 class will continue to expand their knowledge of musical notation, their skill on the hand chimes, and two-part harmony, as well as practice the choral and acting parts for the spring musical. Specific objectives include:

- Hand chime repertoire
- Choral repertoire
- Score analysis

Physical Education: This month, students will continue to practice and train in badminton. 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.