

May 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 begin to study The Sermon on the Mount. Students will:

- Understand the setting and the crowds of the Sermon on the Mount
- Examine the eight beatitudes that distinguish followers of Jesus
- Learn what it means to be the salt and light of the world
- Understand what it means to seek God and His kingdom first and above all else
- Discuss obedience from the heart and not just in action
- Memorize 1 John 4:7-17

**Literature and Writing:** This month, students will begin studying the classic novel, *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. Students will:

- Learn about the life of Robert Louis Stevenson
- Explore the historical backdrop of the novel
- Master vocabulary from the novel
- Discuss and memorize quotes from the novel
- Analyze and discuss plot development, characterization, literary elements, and biblical application
- Contribute meaningfully to group discussions by explaining ideas, building upon others' comments, and asking questions
- Understand the structure and style of a newspaper article and write an article
- Write passages of the book from dictation, observing proper structure, spelling, and punctuation

**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:

- Review and apply spelling rules
- 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 will focus on verbs. Students will:

- Identify main verbs and helping verbs
- Understand and identify linking verbs
- Identify predicate adjectives and predicate nouns
- Understand subject-verb agreement
- Diagram 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), and *mega* (large, million, great)

**French:** This month, students will finish the play "Boucles Violettes" and present it in class. Students will:

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Memorize their lines for "Boucles Violettes"
- Work on writing and comprehension activities

## 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.

- Complete the memorization of the sixth gospel statement
- Learn 11 expressions that use the verb avoir

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

- Louis XIV – The Sun King
- Frederick – the first Prussian king
- King Philip's War
- William Penn
- The King's Daughters
- John Newton and John Locke
- Peter the Great

**Mathematics:** In mathematics, Grade 6 students will learn how to find the surface area and volume of different solids. Students will practice the following:

- Recognizing nets of cubes, prisms, and pyramids
- Finding the surface area and volume of prisms
- Finding the surface area of pyramids
- Solving real-world problems involving the surface area and volume of prisms

This unit also gives us an exciting opportunity to utilize our 3-D printer at Innova. Students will choose a favourite solid shape that we have been studying, print it, and demonstrate that they are able to calculate its surface area and volume.

**Science:** Students will continue their investigation of motion by building DC motor cars with gears. They will then start a unit on plants and forestry. They will investigate the following:

- Structure of plants
- Identification of plants
- Function and importance of plants

**Visual Arts:** Students will study Baroque art and create a still life painting inspired by Caravaggio. They will also create a sculpture in kiln-fired clay then paint their pottery with ceramic glazes. Skills focused on will include:

- Painting and colour mixing
- 3-dimensional sculptures
- Form and texture

**Music:** Grade 6 students are busy preparing for the spring musical. As they rehearse for their performance, students will continue to develop musical skills in the following areas:

- Singing in tune with good tone quality
- Singing in unison and 2-part harmony
- Observing dynamics, articulation, proper enunciation, and vowel control
- Following the conductor and working as an ensemble

**Physical Education:** This month, students will begin preparing for the track and field meet by training and practicing for their chosen events. In addition, we will discuss different energy systems (aerobic vs. anaerobic) used in these events and how our physiology can adapt with proper training. We will explore various techniques and strategies for the following types of events:

- Throwing events
- Jumping events
- Running events (distance vs. sprints)

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

## Upcoming Events

May 2 – Math Olympics – Mississauga Christian Academy  
May 3 – Exordium – Parents Welcome  
May 7 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome  
May 7, 14, 21, 28 – Lunch Lady Lunch  
May 10 – Parent Morning AND Pizza Lunch  
May 20 – Victoria Day – No School  
May 21 – Battle of the Books (Gr. 4-8) – Innova  
May 24 – Pizza Lunch  
May 28 – Track and Field (Gr. 7/8) – Centennial Stadium  
May 29-31 – Camping Trip (Gr. 9)  
May 30 – Track and Field (Gr. 4-6) – Centennial Stadium AND Grad Night (Gr. 7/8)

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