

May 2019

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

mgazmin@innovaacademy.ca

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 conclude their study on apologetics. Students will:

- Answer the question, 'Is the Bible the Word of God?'
- Discuss how to respond to attacks on our faith with wisdom and compassion
- Examine the importance of our words and how our relationships reflect Christ to a broken world
- Study Colossians 2:16-23 and 3:1-17
- Memorize Isaiah 53:9-12 and Psalm 145:1-12

**Logic:** Students will be tested on their comprehension of statistical fallacies before they begin studying the category of fallacies known as propaganda. Propaganda techniques include:

- Appeal to fear
- Appeal to pity
- Bandwagon
- Exigency

**Writing & Rhetoric:** During the month of May, students will use what they have learned in writing and grammar to successfully research, compose, and present a biography to the class. This project will include:

- Either an encomium or vituperative five-paragraph essay with the following parts:
  - Introduction: hook and thesis statement
  - Early life: birth, parents, childhood, education
  - Adulthood: successes and failures, marriage, family, friendships
  - Elder years and death
  - Conclusion: influence on others, historical significance
- Use of rhetorical devices and appeals
  - Parallelism, alliteration, anaphora, epistrophe, hyperbole, hypophora, etc.
  - Ethos, pathos, and logos
- Presentation of subject
  - PowerPoint may be used
  - Must dress as the person written about
  - Tell the person's life story as the person himself/herself

**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 carry, bring, send, and throw
- English derivatives related to carry, bring, send, and throw

**French:** This month, students will finish the story "Un frere penible" and present it in dialogue form in class. Students will:

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Work towards memorizing the play "Un frere penible"
- Work on writing and comprehension activities
- Complete the memorization of the sixth gospel statement
- Forming the passé compose with avoir

## 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.

**History/Geography:** Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how Canada became the great nation it is today. Focus for the month of May will be the events of Confederation. Specific lessons will answer the following questions:

- How were the politicians able to join the colonies together?
- How did the map of Canada change?
- How were the responsibilities of government divided between the federal and provincial governments?
- How is this organization reflected in our present-day government?

**Mathematics:** This month, students will complete all the new content for the course when they complete the Probability unit. Topics in this unit include:

- Compound events
- Probability of compound events
- Independent events
- Dependent events

After being tested on Probability, students will complete the cumulative review for the last two units and have a second opportunity to demonstrate their learning.

**Science:** Students will finish their weather unit this month. They will then examine the scientific theory of health and political issues surrounding climate change and air pollution by studying the following:

- Factors that determine climate
- Classification of climate
- Air pollution
- Climate change

**Visual Arts:** Students will focus on a drawing unit on the human figure and portraiture. Students will create a sculpture from kiln-fired clay and be inspired by Mexican pottery. They will paint the sculptures using ceramic glazes. Students will focus on:

- Drawing faces and figures in correct proportion
- 3-dimensional sculptures
- Form and texture

**Music:** Grade 8 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:** In order to prepare for the track and field meet at the end of the month, students will begin training and practicing for various events. In addition, we will discuss different energy systems (aerobic vs. anaerobic) used when competing in these events and how our physiology can adapt and improve depending on training protocols. Students will explore, discuss, and attempt various techniques and strategies for the following types of events:

- Throwing events (ball throw, shot put, discus)
- Jumping events (long jump, high jump)
- 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.