

June 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 the book of Colossians. Students will:

- Examine the importance of their words and how their relationships reflect Christ to a broken world
- Develop a 'friendship challenge' to encourage each other towards godly relationships
- Study Colossians 3:18-4:18
- Memorize Psalm 145:13-18

Logic: Students will complete their study of logic using *The Fallacy Detective* curriculum by looking at the final category of fallacy called "Propaganda". This type of fallacy includes many popular forms of persuasion, including:

- Appeal to fear
- Appeal to pity
- Bandwagon
- Repetition
- Snob appeal

Language Arts: During the month of June, Grade 8 students will read and analyze *The Necklace*, by Guy de Maupassant. This classic tale centers around Mme. Mathilde Loisel – a woman fated to her status in life. Instead of accepting her position in life, she feels cheated. She is selfish and self-involved, tortured and angry that she can't purchase the jewels and clothing that she desires. Throughout our study of de Maupassant's short story, students will:

- Identify the elements of plot and narration
- Identify and apply literary terms related to characterization
- Understand how to use literary terminology accurately, including setting, character, conflict, plot, resolution, dialect, and point of view
- Understand an author's point of view or purpose
- Practice reading fluency
- Practice higher level thinking skills: predicting, inferring, analyzing, and synthesizing information
- Understand and practice using new vocabulary
- Write an original short story (or skit) that contains the following elements: a moral, an internal or external conflict, a clear setting/time period, dynamic and static characters, and a narrator with a specific point of view (omniscient, first person, or third person)

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. This month will be spent reviewing the Latin and Greek learned throughout the year. Specific prefixes, suffixes, and roots include:

- Bene/bon, mal, dys
- Pater/patri, mater/matri, gen
- Geo, aer, pyr
- Viv/vit, mort, nat/nasc
- Capit/cipit, manu, ped
- Init, fin, term
- Spec, scope, tang/tacit
- Form, struct, migr
- Rog, quer/ques, quir/quis
- Gest, port, miss/mitt

French: This month, students will focus on the past tense in French with both avoir and etre. Students will:

- Learn the passé composé with avoir including both regular and irregular verbs
- Learn the passé composé with etre with some frequent verbs

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.

- Memorize the seventh gospel statement
- Orally present a story in the past tense

History/Geography: During the last month of school, Grade 8 students will take a much-needed break from the study of war and politics. This month, students will study Impressionism, a popular style of painting that became famous in the 1870s. Our study of this movement includes, but is not limited to, the following distinguished artists:

- Claude Monet
- Edgar Degas
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Mary Cassatt

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will be completing their year-end review in preparation for the year end test. Emphasis will be placed on key concepts from the units covered this year which include:

- Exponents
- Scientific notation
- Algebra, lines, and linear equations
- Systems of equations
- Functions
- Pythagorean theorem
- Geometric transformation
- Congruency and similarity
- Statistics
- Probability

Science: Students will finish the year studying climate change and pollution by examining the history and scientific theory behind the issue as well as studying the following:

- Classification of climate
- Air pollution
- Climate change

Visual Arts: Students will create a watercolour painting inspired by French Impressionist painters. Students will use linear perspective to create a landscape scene in 3D. Skills will focus on:

- Composition and watercolour painting techniques
- Space and 3-dimensional forms

Music: In June, students will have an opportunity to interact with historical and theoretical areas of music. Topics include:

- Critical listening of classical works of music
- Music history
- Composition and melody writing
- Tonic and dominant
- Sight singing solfege

Physical Education: This month, students will be playing ultimate frisbee. Students will learn various methods of throwing and catching a disc and will use these skills while competing in modified games. Techniques include:

- Backhand throw
- Forehand "flick"
- Hammer throw

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

Upcoming Events

- June 3 – AMICA Presentation (JK-2)
- June 4 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome AND Lunch Lady Lunch
- June 6 – Spring Concert/Musical & Art Show – 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- June 7 – Pizza Lunch
- June 10 – Green Acres Field Trip (JK-2)
- June 11 – Lunch Lady Lunch
- June 15 – End of Year Picnic at the Makarenkos' – 12-2:00 p.m.
- June 18 - Last Day of Classes (noon dismissal) Reports Sent Home AND Grade 8 Graduation

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