

January 2020

# 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 the Grade 5 and 6 teacher 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.



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 explore God's timeline of history, studying how the Bible reveals the unfolding story of God and His people. Students will:

- Review the books and literary categories of the Bible
- Identify God's promises to His people and His Faithfulness to fulfill each promise
- Consider how God has been faithful to them specifically
- Discover the victory that is ours because of His promises kept
- Complete the read aloud of *Bartholomew's Passage*

**History/Geography:** This year, history study focuses on Canadian history from 1400 to 1800. This month, students will focus on:

- Geography: the states of the northern United States
- Map reading using latitude and longitude, coordinates, and degrees
- The fur trade
- The story of Radisson and Groseilliers

**Literature:** This month, students will enjoy and explore poetry by famous authors such as Robert Louis Stevenson, John Masefield, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Robert Frost. Students will:

- Interpret poetry and support interpretations with evidence from the text
- Discuss symbolism
- Distinguish figurative from literal language
- Define and identify poetic forms
- Identify imagery, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia, personification, and alliteration
- Write original poems using the literary techniques studied

**Writing:** In writing, students will begin to write an original speech in preparation for the ACSI Public Speaking Festival. Students will:

- Understand the difference between an essay and a speech
- Choose and narrow an appropriate topic
- Research their topic and take notes
- Construct an outline of their speech

**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
- 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 focuses on:

- Reviewing types of sentences
- Learning and practicing comma rules
- Reviewing state of being verbs and all chants learned to date
- Defining and identifying linking verbs, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives
- Diagraming sentences with interjections and nouns of address



Mrs. Adele  
McLaughlin  
Teacher

Grade 5 and  
Grade 6

## 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.

**Mathematics:** This month in mathematics, students will complete their study of algebraic expressions, and then begin working on equations and inequalities. Topics for this new unit include:

- Solving algebraic equations
- Writing linear equations
- Solving simple inequalities
- Real-world problems: equations and inequalities

**Science:** This month, students will finish their study of matter. They will then examine electricity in the following areas:

- Defining electricity
- Components of a circuit
- Building circuits

**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 and use English derivatives related to the Latin words *amin* (spirit, soul, life) and *carn* (meat, flesh)
- Learn and use English derivatives related to the Greek word *phys* (nature)

**French:** This month, students will begin writing sentences on a weekly basis using assigned vocabulary words. They will also begin to answer questions about the story *La Cigale et la Fourmi*. Students will:

- Continue to practice reciting the play *Louis la Grenouille* as a class and in small groups
- Answer questions about *Louis la Grenouille* using full sentences
- Complete three activities assessing their understanding of *La Cigale et la Fourmi*
- Learn about French homophones to help improve the quality of their writing

**Visual Arts:** Students will focus on the Indigenous art of the Northwest Coast and create a three-dimensional mask sculpture using paper, paint, and plaster cloth strips. Students will study the following:

- Three-dimensional art
- Shape line colour

**Music:** In the Grade 6 music class, students will continue their choral training in canons, two-part harmony, and ukulele lessons. They will expand their knowledge of composers, music notation, and terms. Topics include:

- Review of intro, interlude, coda, theme, and variations
- Introduction to sonata form
- Bass clef
- Ukulele
- Review of vocal technique, solfege, and part singing
- Time period: Romantic
- Composers: Chopin, Schumann, Liszt

**Physical Education:** This month in physical education, students will begin a unit on basketball. Students will learn, practice, and improve in the following skills:

- Passing (bounce pass, chest pass, overhead pass)
- Dribbling (dominant and non-dominant hands)
- Shooting (lay-ups, jump-shots)

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

## Upcoming Events

- January 10 – Homeschool Visit Day – South Campus
- January 16 – AMICA Visit – Grades 3/4
- January 17 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports Go Home
- January 17- 23 – High School Evaluation Days
- January 23 – Parent Teacher Interviews
- January 24 – PD Day AND Parent Teacher Interviews
- January 27- 29 – Fair Glen Retreat – Grades 5-10
- January 28 – Fair Glen Field Trip – Grades 3/4

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