

January 2020

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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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.



Mrs. 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 / Logic:** Through discussion, reading, and film, students will continue to examine the tenets of the Christian worldview and how they compare to the doctrines of the leading non-Christian worldviews of our day. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life. During the month of January, students will focus on the following "keys to understanding":

- Key question: What is true and how do we know?
- Key idea: The nature of reality is foundational to every worldview
- Key terms: Philosophy, truth, epistemology, science, empiricism, metaphysics, materialism, spiritualism, supernaturalism, miracle
- Key verses: 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Colossians 2:8

In addition, students will also continue to discuss the importance of conflict resolution with Mrs. Armstrong, gaining a deeper understanding of forgiveness. Through discussion and practical application, students will discover the importance of seeking and giving forgiveness, including when, why, and how to forgive.

**Literature:** During the month of January, students will listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about famous speeches that have been delivered throughout history. Students will understand what makes some speeches memorable, and others not. As students listen to and read speeches, they will look for various forms of rhetorical devices which make these speeches effective. Specific speeches and lessons will include, but are not limited to:

- I Have a Dream – Martin Luther King, Jr.
- We Shall Fight on the Beaches – Winston Churchill
- Rhetorical Devices: alliteration, allusion, anaphora, epistrophe, hyperbole, hypophora, metaphor, parallelism, repetition, simile

**Writing:** This month, students will use the skills they are learning in literature about speeches and apply them to their writing as they prepare to compose their own original and effective speech. Along with the above rhetorical devices, students will also focus on the following:

- Choosing an effective topic
- Creating a detailed outline
- Conducting research
- Drafting, revising, and editing

**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. Specific lessons in grammar this month will include:

- Punctuation: periods and commas; exclamation points, question marks, semi-colons, and colons; quotation marks and italics; apostrophes, hyphens, and dashes

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will continue to learn the following Latin and Greek words and their derivatives:

- peri (G): perimeter, periscope, perigee, perihelion, period, peripatetic, peripheral, peristyle
- theos (G): theology, monotheism, polytheism, atheist, theocracy, Pantheon, enthusiasm
- Deus (L): deity, deify, deist, adieu, addio, adios, deus
- Divinus (L): divine (noun, adjective, & verb), diviner, divine right of kings, diva

**French:** This month, students will continue to read and discuss the book *Le Petit Prince*. Students will review verb conjugation and begin studying different verb tenses. Students will:

- Continue to practice saying the play *Chat Angora* as a class and in small groups
- Answer questions about *Chat Angora* using full sentences

## 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.

- Read *Le Petit Prince* chapters 9 to 13
- Review verb conjugation and passé composé

**History/Geography:** In history this month, students will begin a unit titled Wars of Modern Times and the Hope of Mankind, 1948 – Date Unknown. Specific lessons include:

- The formation of Israel (May 14, 1948)
- Mao Zedong forms the People's Republic of China (October 1, 1949)
- The Korean War (1950 – 1953)

**Mathematics:** In mathematics this month, students will complete their unit on Systems of Linear Relations and then begin their study on Functions. Topics in this unit include:

- Understanding Relations and Functions
- Representing Functions
- Understanding Linear and Nonlinear Functions
- Comparing Two Functions

**Science:** Students will finish their work on the basics of matter this month. They will then focus on properties of substances and study the following:

- Physical and chemical properties
- Temperature, pressure, and volume
- Phases of matter
- Density

**Visual Arts:** Students will focus on three-dimensional art and create a sculpture of the human figure using wire and plaster gauze strips. Students will be inspired by the art of Rodin, Brancusi, and Giacometti. This month, the focus of study is on:

- Three-dimensional sculpture
- Line, shape, proportion

**Music:** In the new year, the grade seven music class will continue to expand on their knowledge of music notation and history and their skill with handchimes and singing. Topics in class will include:

- Form
- Grand staff
- Handchimes
- Vocal technique
- Theory: Terms and Intervals
- Listening: Liebestraume by Liszt

**Physical Education:** This month, students will begin their basketball unit. Students will have the opportunity to learn, practice, and improve in the following skills and tactics:

- Dribbling
- Passing
- Shooting (lay-up and jump shot)
- Team defense

*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.