

January 2020

The Month Ahead At Innova

Melinda holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Psychology from the University of Windsor and a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University. She is passionate about instilling a love of learning into the hearts of children and encouraging and inspiring them to be confident leaders. Using music, art, drama, and many visual resources, Melinda loves teaching in creative ways to engage children. After reading the book, *Shaping Hearts and Minds* by Monica and Shawn Whatley, Melinda is excited to bring the classical model of teaching to her classroom. Melinda enjoys travelling, meeting new people, and eating a variety of international foods. She is active in her church and serves in various capacities on the worship and prayer team as well as in local outreach and evangelism.



Miss Melinda Morris
Teacher

Junior
Kindergarten



Junior Kindergarten
Miss Melinda Morris
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Junior Kindergarten is a time of magical growth where children learn foundational knowledge and skills to develop a life-long love of learning. Students will listen to wonderful selections of classic children's literature and respond through engaging hands-on activities. We are committed to developing the whole child by providing a pleasant environment for children to take chances and explore. Above all, we strive to lead children to taste the joys of being a child of God and grow in their understanding of serving Him.

Christian Education: In Junior Kindergarten, the overarching theme is God's care and love for His people. The Old Testament stories introduce students to biblical characters in a way that shows how God displayed His love and care for His people. This month, topics include:

- David's songs
- David and Goliath
- David and the King
- Elijah and the Fiery Chariot
- Elisha and the Shunamite Family
- Healing of Naaman
- King Josiah
- Jonah
- Nineveh
- Daniel and His Friends
- Esther Becomes Queen
- Esther Saves Her People

Memory Verses: Hebrews 13:5-6 "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So, we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Language Arts: With the use of various tactile means, songs, games, and chants, students will practice proper letter formation and pronunciation. This month, students will focus on the following:

- Phonics: short and long vowel sounds of *a*, *e* and *i*
- Words with the beginning and ending sounds: *s*, *w*, *z*, *l*, *th*, *k*, *v*, *r*
- Distinguishing between words that rhyme and those that do not rhyme
- Learning and practicing blends
- Proper Letter Formation: *v*, *w*, *x*, *y*, *z*

Culture/Geography: Students will learn about China, Japan, and Thailand. Learning objectives for this month include:

- Locate Asia on a globe
- Know that China is a country in the continent of Asia
- Understand that the Yangtze and Yellow River are important rivers in China
- Locate Japan on a world map
- Know that Tokyo is the largest city in Japan
- Learn about Japanese and Thai Culture
- Practice saying hello in Mandarin, Japanese, and Thai
- Know that Thailand is a country in Asia

JK – The Grammar Stage

Innova Academy's grammar school curriculum builds a solid academic foundation, emphasizing mastery of facts and fundamental skills. Grammar stage students have the natural ability to retain large amounts of information, so Innova intentionally builds knowledge across the curriculum immersing students in a holistic, unified, and rich learning experience. Students are actively engaged in learning while applying skills they have previously acquired to new, expansive content. Classrooms are filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. Strong habits of heart, mind, and soul are reinforced, as students become more aware of their impact on others and build skills in self-governance and responsibility.

Mathematics: Students will learn to recognize and say their numbers through songs and chants and use various tactile means to practice proper number formation. This month's focus is the continuation of complex patterning and the introduction to complex shapes. Students will:

- Review AB patterns
- Learn ABC, ABB, AAB, and AABB patterning
- Review 2-Dimensional Shapes
- Explore 3-D shapes - cubes, spheres, cones, cylinders
- Compare 3-D shapes by their characteristics

Science: This month in science, students will discover topics about the solar system. They will complete various hands-on activities and experiments and explore:

- What are the planets?
- What is gravity?
- How does the moon shine?
- What is a Star?

Visual Arts: In art class, students will focus on winter landscapes and arctic animals. They will learn about creating an illusion of space using placement and various overlapping tree sizes. Students will explore how to use simple shapes to draw a variety of arctic animals with an emphasis on:

- Space: placement, size, foreground and background, overlapping
- Line and Texture: Use a variety of lines to create textures
- Shape: Use simple shapes to build pictures

Music: In music class, students will continue to expand their repertoire of songs and practice keeping the pulse and recognizing the difference between elements of music such as fast and slow or low and high. They will also learn about instruments and take part in active listening. Students will focus on the following:

- Singing - Pitch Matching
- Pulses with stresses
- Same/Different phrases
- Fast/Slow
- Instruments: Trumpet
- Listening (*The March of the Siamese Twins* from *The King and I*)

Physical Education: During physical education time, students will have opportunities to develop spatial awareness, balance, and coordination using their bodies and a variety of equipment. Throughout the year, students are led to develop good sportsmanship while playing games with their classmates. This month's focus will include:

- One hand over hand throwing
- Underhand and overhand throwing with scoops

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.