

February 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.



Mrs. Adele
McLaughlin
Teacher

Grade 5 and
Grade 6



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 in God's timeline examining the later Judean ministry. Students will:

- Examine how Jesus extends forgiveness to all
- Discuss various teachings, provisions, and healings completed by Jesus
- Explore the cost of being a disciple of Christ
- Memorize Philippians 2:1-4

Literature: This month, students will study the novel *Madeleine Takes Command* by Ethel Brill. This historical novel, set in 17th century New France, tells the story Madeleine de Vercheres, a teenage girl, who takes up arms in defense of family, country, and faith against an attack on her family seigneurie by the Iroquois. Students will:

- Discuss historical context, plot development, explore themes, predict outcomes
- Identify literary devices
- Discuss biblical application

Writing: This month, students will write, revise, and deliver their original speeches. They will focus on:

- Editing their speeches with attention to structure, clarity, and coherence
- Presentation skills including enunciation, volume, eye contact, appropriate gestures, and tone

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:

- Proofreading
- Prepositional phrases
- Interjections and nouns of direct address
- Diagramming sentences

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

- Geography: the states located in the middle of the United States
- Exploration to the heart of the continent: La Salle, Saint-Lusson, Jolliet, Marquette, Frontenac, Henry Kelsey

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: The grade 6 class will begin a new unit titled: Equations and Inequalities. The specific areas of focus will include:

- Solving Algebraic Equations
- Writing Linear Equations
- Solving Simple Equations

Science: Since our modern world is dependent upon electricity, students will investigate the basics of electricity including:

- Electricity and safety
- Static vs electrical current
- Conductors and insulators
- Electricity and magnetism

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 *fals/fall* (deceive, lie, wrong) and *cert/cred* (believe, sure, trust)
- Learn and use English derivatives related to the Greek word *phob* (fear)

French: This month, students will continue to build their vocabulary as well as practice writing complete sentences. Students will:

- Read the story *Le Chien et L'os* and answer reading comprehension questions about the story
- Practice the play *Louis la Grenouille* and respond to questions about the story
- Learn about regular verbs in the present tense

Visual Arts: This month, students will learn about Inuit stone cut (relief) prints. Specifically, students will:

- Make relief prints by carving rubber blocks
- Create an edition of prints which they will sign and number.

Music: In February, grade 6 students will begin preparing their choral repertoire for a choir competition in April. They will also begin to learn more complex ukulele music and refine their score reading abilities. Specific skills include:

- Intervals
- Rhythm reading
- Chord reading
- Choral technique

Physical Education: In physical education this month, the class will be wrapping up their unit on basketball before switching over to badminton. Students will learn and practice the following skills:

- Serving technique
- Over-head clear
- Drop-shots

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

Upcoming Events

- February 3 – ACSI JR Boys' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Toronto
- February 5 – ACSI JR Girls' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Scarborough
- February 7 – Exordium and Literature Day (All Grades) – North Campus
- February 10 – Parent Night (All Parents) – South Campus
- February 14 – PD Day – No School for Students
- February 17 – Family Day – No School
- February 20 – In-School Speech Meet
- February 27 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga

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