

March 2020

# 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.



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 March, students will focus on the following "keys to understanding":

- Key Question: What is the origin of life?
- Key Idea: Life's origin and design display the work of an intelligent designer
- Key Terms: biology, Darwinism, design theory, abiogenesis, Law of Biogenesis, spontaneous generation, macro-evolution, adaptation, micro-evolution, information theory
- Key Verses: Genesis 1:21-27 and John 1:3

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

- Man walks on the moon
- Roe v. Wade
- Ayatollah Khomeini forms the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The assassination of Anwar Sadat

**Literature:** During the month of March, students will continue to listen to, read, discuss, analyze, and think critically about various short stories. Stories will include:

- "The Lady, or the Tiger" by Frank R. Stockton
- "To Build a Fire" by Jack London
- "The Piece of String" by Guy de Maupassant

**Writing:** In writing this month, students will complete an argumentative essay in response to Stockton's short story, "The Lady, or the Tiger". Their five-paragraph essays will include:

- A strong introduction that includes a summary, an attention grabber, and a well-thought-out thesis statement
- Two body paragraphs elaborating on main points and supported by textual evidence
- One body paragraph that includes a counterclaim and an attack to that counter claim with supporting textual evidence
- A strong conclusion that restates the original thesis statement and summarizes main ideas

**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:

- Types of adverbs
- Interrogative adverbs and adverbial nouns
- Comparative and superlative adverbs
- As...as, so...as, and equally
- Adverb phrases and clauses

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

- Infans/infantis (L): infant, infancy, infantile, infantry
- Pais/paidos (G): pediatrician, encyclopedia, pedagogue, pedagogy, paideia

## 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.

**French:** This month, students will begin working on retelling the story of *Le Chat Angora* in their own words. Students will:

- Read chapters 15-17 of *Le Petit Prince* and answer reading comprehension questions
- Answer questions about *Le Chat Angora* in writing and during classroom activities
- Continue to practice conjugating verbs in the present tense

**Mathematics:** This month in math, students will be completing unit 7: The Pythagorean Theorem. Students will study the following topics:

- Understanding the Pythagorean theorem and plane figures
- Understanding the distance formula
- Understanding the Pythagorean theorem and solids

**Science:** Students will begin to work on science fair projects and will also finish their study of electricity. Topics of study include:

- Types of currents
- Applying Ohm's law
- Building series and parallel circuits

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will focus on Modern Art by American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Inspired by the artist, students will begin an acrylic painting on canvas in the Precisionist style. Emphasis will be placed on composition with a focus on the following elements of design:

- Line
- Shape/form
- Space and colour

**Music:** The grade 8 music class continues to progress in their choral singing, note reading, and hand chime ensemble. This month, there will be a heavier emphasis on hand chimes as we prepare for our spring concert. Students will also take a closer look at Mussorgsky's *Pictures At An Exhibition* in preparation for our visit to the TSO in April. Specific items covered include:

- Spring concert repertoire for hand chimes and choir
- Choral singing skills
- Note reading
- Graphic score notation

**Physical Education:** In physical education, the class will begin a unit on badminton. Specific skills covered this month will include:

- 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

March 2 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival - Mississauga

March 2-6 – House Basketball Intramurals (Gr. 5-10) – South Campus

March 4 – Royal Ontario Museum (Gr. 3/4 and 9/10)

March 9-20 – March Break – No School

March 24 – Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Gr. 5-10) – Roy Thomson Hall

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