

December 2020

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 6

Miss Melanie Pretorius

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Melanie graduated *summa cum laude* from York University with an honours bachelor's degree of arts in French studies and Spanish and a Bachelor of Education.

Melanie has her intermediate/senior qualifications in French and Spanish and completed her TEFL training at the University of Toronto. She has formerly taught French to students in grades 3-9 and Latin to grades 6-8 at Innova Academy. Her experience also includes teaching various subjects at other Christian schools in York Region and abroad. Melanie has also tutored students in grades 3-12 in math, science, English, French, and history. She serves as a "big sister" to youth in Georgina and serves on the prayer, Alpha, and guest services teams at her church. In her spare time, Melanie enjoys going for walks, baking, reading, and travelling.



Miss Melanie Pretorius
Teacher

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: Students will continue to be challenged to grow in their faith by studying and memorizing Scripture and learning about Christians from history. During the month of December, students will:

- Begin to memorize Romans 12:9-21
- Review the events and biblical figures related to Jesus' death on the cross
- Begin a new unit on Jesus' resurrection, specifically looking at the empty tomb and the report of the soldiers
- Study the life of William Wilberforce and Elizabeth Fry

Literature: This month, students will read the Advent story *Bartholomew's Passage*. Topics this month will include:

- Reading aloud with expression
- Reading comprehension
- Making connections

Writing: Students will begin to learn to summarize references. Specifically, students will:

- Learn to find reading material on a topic, take notes, and write a summary
- Document references and report what they found and where they found it

Spelling: Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and understanding and apply spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Analyze weekly spelling words drawn from the class list and student writing
- Write well-constructed sentences to practice grammar skills and illustrate the meaning of weekly spelling words
- Review and practice the 1-1-1 rule

Grammar: This year, students are using the IEW grammar program titled *Fix It! Grammar*. In this program, students will hunt for and correct errors in daily passages that cumulatively tell a story. *Fix It! Grammar* encourages students to apply new grammar knowledge in context, aiding in the transfer of grammar skills to their own writing. This month's grammar study focuses on:

- Commas with quotations
- Commas with adjectives before a noun
- Commas with adverb clauses
- Clausal sentence openers
- Very short sentences

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek vocabulary using the *Get to the Root of It!* curriculum. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek roots. This month, students will learn words derived from the following six roots:

- Capit/cipit (L) – head
- Manu (L) – hand
- Ped (L) – foot
- Init (L) – beginning
- Fin (L) – end
- Term (L) – limit, end

French: In French this month, students will continue to review gestured vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and study the play *Boucles Violettes*. Students will:

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts

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.

- Continue to memorize the play
- Answer questions about the play orally and in writing
- Review and practice vocabulary related to the play
- Continue to memorize the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) in French
- Learn and practice using Christmas-related vocabulary

History/Geography: This year, history study focuses on world history from 1450 to 1800. During the month of December, students will continue to study specific explorers, the routes they travelled, and their motivations for exploration. Topics discussed this month include:

- Vespucci, Magellan, and Elcano
- The Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas
- The Slave Trade
- Cortés and Montezuma
- Copernicus and Galileo

Mathematics: Students in grade 6 will begin an extensive mathematics unit on percent. Topics covered in these units include:

- Understanding the relationships between equivalent fractions, decimals, and percent
- Investigating the relationship between percent and parts of a whole
- Determining percent of a numerical quantity
- Applying these concepts to real-world problems involving percent
- Solving problems involving percent increase and decrease

Science: Science provides us with unique ways of seeing God's creative presence in the world. This month, grade 6 students will continue to learn about matter and will explore the following topics:

- The different types of elements
- How to read and use the periodic table of elements
- Compounds and chemical formulas

Visual Arts: This month, students will celebrate Christmas by painting a nativity scene in watercolour and design Christmas cards. Students will:

- Study colour by creating a monochromatic painting
- Study value by adding black to a colour to create shading
- Learn how to draw the human figure

Music: In music this month, the grade 6 class will continue building skills on ukulele, learn new theory concepts, and work on ear training. Specific elements will include:

- Intervals
- Scale identification
- Notation
- Chording
- World music

Physical Education: Students will continue in the volleyball unit they began at the end of November. Students will increase in skill and teamwork as they enjoy this lifelong recreational sport. Areas of skill introduced include:

- Key terms and rules in the game of volleyball
- Overhead pass and forearm pass
- Proper serving technique
- Rotation order in a volleyball game

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

Upcoming Events

December 4 – Biblical Parenting Book Study via Zoom
December 17 – Innova Online Christmas Concert – At 7:00 p.m.
December 18 – Classes Dismissed at Noon for Christmas Break
December 23 – January 1 – Christmas Break!

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