

December 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: This month, students will continue to study the book of James, examining James 4:1-17. Students will discuss:

- What are the dangers of friendship with the world?
- What about tomorrow? Responding to God's Will
- Memorize James 1:19-25

Logic: This month, students will study fallacies that all involve making assumptions. After observing the subtle but pervasive fallacy of circular reasoning, and the equally common fallacies of equivocation and loaded questions, we will turn our attention to these fallacies in December:

- Slippery slope
- Part-to-whole
- Whole-to-part

Literature and Writing: This month, students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Charles Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*. They will discover the spiritual depth of Dickens' message and learn what lessons of Christ are woven in among the scenes of Christmas splendor and the soul-searching of Scrooge. As students read through each stave, they will have the chance to interact with the story and reflect on its message. Students will successfully apply skills learned to lessons on the following:

- Character analysis
- Symbolism
- Unfamiliar vocabulary such as *veneration* and *misanthropic*
- Figurative language: *simile*, *metaphor*, *idiom*, *hyperbole*, *analogy*, *personification*, *onomatopoeia*, *allusion*, and *pun*
- Conflicts: *person vs person*, *person vs technology*, *person vs nature*, *person vs himself*, *person vs society*
- Essay writing containing the following elements: *figurative language*, *a strong thesis statement*, *quotes taken from the text*, *a strong conclusion*, *voice*, and *word flow*

Grammar: This year, students will use 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, focus will be placed on:

- Illegal *-ing* openers (dangling modifiers)
- *That* clauses
- Alliteration
- Invisible prepositional phrase openers

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will continue learning both Latin and Greek root words with our *English from the Roots Up* curriculum. This month, students will learn words derived from the following roots:

- Mare (L) - sea, ocean

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.

- Naus (G) - ship, boat
- Navis (L) - ship, boat
- Homos (G) - same, common, joint
- Heteros (G) - other, different

French: During the month of December, students will continue to review French vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and study the play *Un frère pénible*. Students will:

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French
- Continue to practice and memorize the play *Un frère pénible*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Memorize selected verses from the first chapter of the book of James (*Jacques*) in French
- Learn and practice using Christmas-related vocabulary

History/Geography: Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how Canada became the great nation it is today. Our focus from now until the end of the term will be the 19th century. Lessons during the month of December will include:

- Who were the people of British North America?
- What was life like in British North America?
- Physical, political, and economic features of British North America

Mathematics: This month, students will complete a unit on systems of linear equations. Lessons from this unit will include:

- Solving systems of linear equations by graphing
- Solving systems of equations using algebraic methods (substitution & elimination)
- Real-world problems: systems of linear equations
- Inconsistent and dependent systems of linear equations

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: This month, the grade 8 music class will finish preparing their concert pieces for Innova's Christmas concert. Students will also continue digging deeper into the Classical era of music and listen to representative works. Additional areas of study include:

- Musical terms
- Music theory
- Ear training

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.