

December 2020

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Heidi completed an honours bachelor's degree in arts/science and a Bachelor of Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first-year teaching on an aboriginal reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian education. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline, and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi loves playing sports and spending time with her two children. Most of all, Heidi is grateful to share the love of God with her students every day.



Mrs. Heidi Di Marco  
Teacher

Senior  
Kindergarten

Angie graduated from Tyndale University with a Bachelor of Religious Education. She also completed the Leaders In Further Training (LIFT) program in upstate New York at CAMP of the WOODS where she also served as their all girls camp Tapawingo director. Angie has also been on staff with the public school board as an educational assistant. In her free time, Angie loves to spend time with her husband and their two children, hiking, exploring cities, finding great coffee shops (well, Angie does) and family pizza nights!



Mrs. Angie Armstrong  
Teacher

Senior  
Kindergarten

Senior Kindergarten

Mrs. Heidi Di Marco  
hdimarco@innovaacademy.ca

Mrs. Angie Armstrong  
aarmstrong@innovaacademy.ca

*Senior 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:** This month, students will participate in a special Christmas unit, discussing why we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and experience a unique Christmas celebration. Students will:

- Study Jesus' family
- Discuss Jesus' special visitors
- Continue to memorize Psalm 136

**Language Arts:** Students will explore stories, poems, songs, chants, and hands-on activities each month. Literature selections this month include *The Velveteen Rabbit*, "Rare and Wonderful Pandas," *The Lion and the Mouse*, and *The Nativity Story*. During daily read-aloud time, students will enjoy listening to a variety of classroom stories.

Using various tactile means as well as songs and chants, students will:

- Review and practice letters and their sounds
- Develop penmanship skills using proper grip and letter formation
- Discuss the story elements of character and setting
- Make predictions before and during reading
- Continue to review vowel sounds
- Learn the endings *tch/ck*

**Culture/Geography:** Students will enjoy an exciting journey around the world during geography class! Students are learning about where they live and how it relates to the rest of the world. This month, students will study how other countries in the world celebrate Christmas. Students will:

- Learn about Christmas traditions in other cultures
- Participate in hands-on activities that other children in the world would do to celebrate Christmas

**Mathematics:** In mathematics this month, students will continue to explore numbers using various hands-on manipulatives, songs, and chants. This month, students will:

- Learn to skip count by 2, 5, and 10
- Practice addition sentences
- Count, order, and compare numbers to 20

## SK – 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.

**Science:** In science this month, students will investigate living things. By participating in science experiments and hands-on activities, students will study the following questions:

- How are plants alike and different?
- How do plants grow?

**Art:** This year, SK students will look at the seven elements of design using a variety of materials. They will learn to incorporate these elements into their artwork, and practice identifying these elements in various classical works of art and in God's creation. This month, students will explore the element of shape. Students will:

- Look for shapes in art pieces
- Construct a project with a variety of shapes
- Create art related to Christmas
- Design a nativity scene

**Music:** In music class, students will continue to expand their repertoire, 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. Classes will include:

- Pulses with stresses
- Movement to music
- Instruments: Trumpet

**Physical Education:** During physical education this month, students will have opportunities to develop spatial awareness, balance, and coordination using their bodies and a variety of equipment. Throughout the year, students are encouraged to develop good sportsmanship while playing games with their classmates. In physical education this month, students will learn to:

- Work with a team in cooperative games
- Follow steps in relay races
- Throw overhand and underhand

*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.