

January 2021

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 6

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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 draw connections between the Old Testament and New Testament through a detailed study of Jesus' ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension. Students will also be challenged to grow in their faith by studying and memorizing Scripture and learning about Christians from history. During the month of January, students will:

- Continue to memorize Romans 12:9-21
- Complete the unit on Jesus' death
- Begin to learn about the details of Jesus' resurrection, including the empty tomb and the report of the soldiers
- Study the lives of Elizabeth Fry, Fidelia Fiske, Nijima Jo, and Hudson and Maria Taylor

Literature: This month, students will read, discuss, and write about the historical novel *I, Juan de Pareja*, which tells the story of an African slave living in Spain in the early seventeenth century. Students will learn the following aspects of literary response:

- Reading comprehension
- Inference and opinion
- Making connections

Writing: Students will continue and complete the unit on summarizing references. Students will:

- 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 applying 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 meanings of spelling words
- Review and practice the name sound rules

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:

- The homophones *whose* and *who's*
- Subordinating conjunctions
- Commas with main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction
- Review of articles, nouns, and coordinating conjunctions
- Review of vocabulary from the story *Robin Hood*

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 roots:

- Latin: *Init* – beginning; *fin* – end; *term-* limit, end; *spec* – to look, *tang/tact* – to touch, *form* – to shape, *struct* – to build or make up; *migr* – to wander
- Greek – *scope* – to examine or view

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
- Finish learning vocabulary and actions related to the play

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
- Continue to memorize the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) in French

History/Geography: This year, history study focuses on world history from 1450 to 1800. During the month of January, students will begin a unit called The New Universe. Topics discussed this month include:

- Copernicus and Galileo
- Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth
- William Shakespeare
- Walter Raleigh and the New World
- The world at the end of the sixteenth century

Mathematics: Students in grade 6 will complete a unit on algebraic expressions and begin working with equations and inequalities. Topics covered in these units include:

- Using variables to represent unknown quantities
- Identifying terms in algebraic expressions
- Evaluating algebraic expressions for given values
- Simplifying, expanding, and factoring algebraic expressions
- Solving algebraic equations
- Writing linear equations

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

- The different parts of an atom
- The positive and negative charges of protons and electrons
- The periodic table of elements
- The elemental makeup of humans, the atmosphere, and the universe
- Molecular motion

Visual Arts: This month, students will study Renaissance portraiture and learn how to draw the human figure and a portrait. Students will:

- Learn how to draw the human figure in correct proportion
- Learn about the proper placement of facial features in portraits

Music: In the grade 6 music class, students will continue their ukulele training. They will expand their knowledge of composers, music notation, and terms. Lessons will focus on:

- Review of introduction, interlude, coda, theme and variations
- Introduction to sonata form
- Key signatures
- Harmony
- Time period: Romantic
- Composers: Chopin, Schumann, Liszt
- Listening: "Raindrop" Prelude, Liebestraum, Schuman Piano Concerto

Physical Education: This month, students will conclude the volleyball unit and begin the basketball unit. Students will:

- Review proper serving and bumping techniques
- Participate in a final volleyball game
- Gain an understanding of proper basketball terms
- Learn to properly dribble and pass a basketball

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

Upcoming Events

- January 4 – Online Training/Orientation and Curriculum Pick-Up
- January 5-8 – Classes Resume Online After Christmas Break
- January 11 – Elementary Classes Resume In-Person
- January 22 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports sent home
- January 25-28 – High School Evaluation Days
- January 28-29 – Parent Teacher Interviews (mandatory)
- January 29 – P.D. Day – No school for students

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