

January 2021

The Month Ahead

At Innova



Junior Kindergarten
Miss Melinda Morris
mmorris@innovaacademy.ca

Melinda holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Psychology from the University of Windsor and a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University. She is passionate about instilling a love of learning into the hearts of children and encouraging and inspiring them to be confident leaders. Using music, art, drama, and many visual resources, Melinda loves teaching in creative ways to engage children. After reading the book, *Shaping Hearts and Minds* by Monica and Shawn Whatley, Melinda is excited to bring the classical model of teaching to her classroom. Melinda enjoys travelling, meeting new people, and eating a variety of international foods. She is active in her church and serves in various capacities on the worship and prayer team as well as in local outreach and evangelism.



Miss Melinda Morris
Teacher

Junior
Kindergarten

Our Junior Kindergarten program is designed to inspire children to have a lifelong 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: In Junior Kindergarten, the overarching theme is God's care and love for His people. The Old Testament stories introduce students to biblical characters in a way that shows how God displayed His love and took care of His people. This month, topics include:

- Simeon and Anna
- Elijah and the fiery chariot
- Elisha and the Shunamite family
- The healing of Naaman
- King Josiah
- Jonah and the fish
- Memory verse: Hebrews 13:5-6 "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Language Arts: Students are learning to identify letters of the alphabet and their respective sounds. With the use of various tactile means, songs, and chants, students practice proper letter formation. This month, students will explore the following:

- Proper letter formation of the lower-case letters *s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z* and tracing upper and lower-case letters
- K-12 Phonics Programme: Parts 1 and 2 Phonics- Letter sounds of *th, k, v, r, ch, y*, short *e, i* and *u*
- Identify beginning, ending, and individual sounds in words
- Distinguish between words that rhyme and words that do not rhyme
- Learn and practice blends
- Learn to put phrases together to make sentences
- Read aloud from various books

World Culture & Geography: Students in Junior Kindergarten embark on a world tour where they will learn basic world geography and explore world cultures, including food, dress, customs, and interesting facts. This month, students will learn about the following countries:

- Japan
- India
- Thailand

JK – 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.

Mathematics: Students will learn to recognize and say their numbers through songs and chants and use various tactile means to practice proper number formation. This month's focus is on measurement and sorting. Students will learn about:

- Comparing length using the words: longer/shorter and longest/shortest
- Measuring weight using the words heavy/light, heavier/lighter, and heaviest/lightest
- Non-standard measurement using a variety of supplies
- Sorting by colour, size, shape, weight, texture

Science: This month in science, students will participate in various hands-on activities and experiments as they learn about:

- The solar system – the planets
- Stars
- Matter and energy
- Freezing temperatures – water becomes ice
- Snowflakes
- Hibernation and Canadian animals that hibernate in the winter

Visual Arts: This year, JK students will be introduced to the 7 elements of design - colour, line, shape, texture, form, space, and value. 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. Students will:

- Continue exploring perspective with winter-themed art
- Begin to work with clay and sponging
- Introduce the element of value
- Begin a piece that combines all studied elements

Music: In January, students will continue to expand their repertoire and practice keeping the pulse and recognizing the difference between beat and rhythm. They will also learn about instruments and take part in active listening. Classes will include:

- Pulses with stresses
- Same and different phrases
- Instruments: brass
- Meters in music

Physical Education: During physical education time, students will have opportunities to develop spatial awareness, balance, and coordination using their bodies and a variety of equipment. Throughout the year, students are led to develop good sportsmanship while playing games with their classmates. This month, topics include:

- One hand overhand throwing
- Underhand and overhand throwing with scoops

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.