

February 2021

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: This year, students are learning to 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 February, students will:

- Memorize Romans 12:13-18
- Continue to learn about the details of Jesus' resurrection, including:
 - Mary and Mary Magdalene finding the empty tomb
 - Peter and John visiting the tomb
 - Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene

Literature: This month, students will continue to 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:

- Demonstrate comprehension of the text
- Draw Inferences from the text and support an opinion
- Write reflections on various aspects of the novel

Writing: This month, students will write a five-paragraph research report. Students will:

- Construct a topics chart from three sources
- Select three topics from the sources
- Take notes about each topic
- Write three body paragraphs implementing stylistic elements
- Learn to write an introduction and conclusion
- Use proper grammar and punctuation
- Correctly format the report

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 the meaning of weekly spelling words

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 *then* and *than*
- Comma rules for main clauses connected by a coordinating conjunction
- Review of adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases
- 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: rog – to ask or demand; quer/ques/quir/quis – to seek or ask; gest – to carry or bear; port – to carry or bring; miss/mitt – to send or throw; ject/jet – to cast or throw; cept – to take, hold, seize
- Greek: ceipt/ceit/ceiv – to take, hold, seize

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
- Use vocabulary and actions from the play in new contexts
- Continue to memorize 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.

- Answer yes/no questions and open-ended 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 February, students will continue the unit entitled The New Universe. As students begin to study historical events at the beginning of the seventeenth century, topics discussed this month include:

- The Holy Roman Empire and Spanish Empire
- The Dutch Revolt
- Mary, Queen of Scots
- Unit review and test

Mathematics: This month, students in grade 6 will complete a unit on equations and inequalities and begin learning about the coordinate plane. Topics covered in these units include:

- Solving algebraic equations and simple inequalities
- Writing linear equations
- Points on the coordinate plane
- Length of line segments
- Real-world problems involving equations, inequalities, and graphing

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

- Chemical symbols and formulae
- The formation and motion of molecules
- States of matter: solids, liquids, gases, and plasma
- Diffusion and distillation
- Polar and nonpolar molecules

Visual Arts: This month, students will continue their drawing unit. They will study animals, perspective and still life found in Renaissance art and make their own drawing of an animal, a scene in one-point perspective, and a still life. Areas of study include:

- Learning how to draw an animal
- Learning how to draw in one-point perspective
- Learning how to draw still life

Music: In the grade 6 music class, students will continue to develop their skills playing the ukulele. They will also have the opportunity to write their own compositions and study world music. Topics include:

- Ukulele – note, rhythmic, and chord reading and playing skills
- Composition
- African and Latin American music traditions

Physical Education (If Learning Virtually): Students will continue to practice juggling to improve their hand eye coordination while exercising at home. They will also continue to complete their winter bingo activity card by participating in various winter activities to build physical fitness. Students will:

- Practice throwing, tracking, and catching multiple objects
- Practice hand-eye coordination and use of peripheral vision to track moving objects
- Build physical fitness and endurance

Physical Education (If Learning in-Person): Students will develop basketball skills and utilize them to play physically distanced basketball games. Students will:

- Engage in basketball drills to practice passing, dribbling, and shooting
- Grow in their teamwork and communication through physically distanced basketball activities and games

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

Upcoming Events

February 1 – High School Semester 2 Begins

February 5 – Re-Application Early Bird Deadline

February 12 – PD Day – No School

February 15 – Family Day – No School

February 16 – Post-Secondary Application Process & Planning Session –
Online Via Zoom

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