

February 2021

The Month Ahead At Innova



Junior Kindergarten
Miss Melinda Morris
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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. In the New Testament, Jesus's life and ministry gives us examples of His kindness and love. His miracles display His power and authority as God meets our needs (physical, emotional, and spiritual). This month, topics of study include:

- The life of Daniel
- The story of Esther
- Jesus' visit to the Temple
- Jesus and Nicodemus
- Jesus chooses His disciples

Memory verse: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (ESV)

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 learn about:

- Phonics: /sh/, /aw/, /kw/, /oi/, /ks/, long u, /oo/, /ow/ sounds
- Beginning and/or ending sounds of the letters found in words: /sh/, /aw/, /kw/, /oi/, /ks/, long u, /oo/, /ow/
- Writing: Tracing the upper and lower-case letters of the alphabet and writing messages to their friends at school (writing: to, from, I like you, and names independently)
- Reading: Sight Words- I, go, no, a, at, an, is, my, by, up, and, to, the, we, he, be, is, in
- Independent Reading Programme: PhonicsWorks Readers- Students will begin the independent reading programme

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 sorting and patterning. Students will learn to:

- Sort by texture, use sorting rules, and sort by more than one attribute
- Identify patterns in their surroundings
- Duplicate, transfer, extend, and create patterns
- Identify the pattern core within a pattern

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.

World Culture and 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. Learning objectives for this month include:

- Asia- Review of China, Japan, India, Thailand
- Asia- Introduction to Saudi Arabia
- North America- Canada and the Arctic

Science: Science is another way in which God displays his majesty as students explore various aspects of His creation. This month, students will participate in various hands-on activities and experiments as they learn about:

- Arctic animals
- Body systems- muscular, digestive, nervous, respiratory, circular
- Healthy eating

Music: In music this month, there will be a stronger emphasis on pitch matching, keeping a steady pulse, and understanding rhythmic notation. More specifically, students will explore:

- Half notes and half rests
- Good singing tone and correct pitch matching
- Rhythmic patterns on unpitched percussion instruments
- Jazz

Art: This year, Junior Kindergarten students will be introduced to the seven elements of design - colour, line, shape, texture, form, space, and value and learn to incorporate these elements into their artwork. In art class this month, students will explore the element of space. Students will:

- Identify the use of space in a variety of completed art projects
- Create Valentine themed crafts

Physical Education: During physical education, students will have opportunities to develop spatial awareness, balance, and coordination using their bodies. Students are encouraged to go outside as much as possible and enjoy God's creation through exercise. This month, students will practice:

- Following various exercise routines
- Completing various activities outside to enjoy fresh air and to develop healthy habits

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.