

March 2021

The Month Ahead

At Innova

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
Miss Melanie Pretorius
mpretorius@innovaacademy.ca

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 and New Testaments 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 March, students will:

- Study the resurrection of Christ as told in each gospel
- Discuss the proof of the resurrection of Jesus and increase confidence sharing the gospel with others
- Explore the significance of the promise of the Holy Spirit
- Study the courage of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the faith of George Mueller, and humility of Amy Carmichael

Literature: This month, students will enter the fantasy world of J.R.R. Tolkien as they begin a study of *The Hobbit*. Students will:

- Practice reading aloud with expression
- Explore literary devices, plot development, conflict, vocabulary, and characterization
- Reflect on themes such as good versus evil, courage, and heroism
- Discuss lessons learned and biblical application

Writing: This month, students will plan, research, and engage in a formal debate. Students will:

- Research, organize, and write notes for a debate
- Learn the terminology and structure of a debate
- Watch and analyze a debate
- Analyze, discuss, and practice techniques for effective speaking
- Learn to collaborate and work in a team
- Participate in a debate

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
- Review and practice silent E 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:

- Review and proper use of homophones
- Rules for writing numbers
- Comma rules for main clauses and dependent clauses
- 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: *ject/jet* – to cast or throw; *cept* – to take, hold, seize; *ord/ordin* – order; *pos* – to place, put, lay; *labor/oper* – work
- Greek: *ceipt/ceit/ceiv* – to take, hold, seize; *para* – beside, near; *techni* – skill, artistry

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

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.

- Finish memorizing and begin rehearsing the play
- Answer yes/no questions and open-ended questions about the play and about everyday situations, orally and in writing
- Review the guideline for using the infinitive form of a verb
- Review and practice present tense verb conjugation
- Continue to memorize the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-16) in French

History/Geography: This year, history study focuses on people, culture, and events around the world from 1450 to 1800. During the month of March, students will begin to study historical events during the seventeenth century, topics discussed will include:

- Hideyoshi, Japan's great leader and the first Tokugawa ruler
- Japan's isolation: closed doors in the east
- Strangers and saints in Plymouth
- The Dutch in the New World
- The spread of slavery
- Queen Nzinga of Angola

Mathematics: This month, students in grade 6 will complete chapter 10 (Area of Polygons) and chapter 11 (Circumference and Area of a Circle). Topics include:

- Area of triangles, parallelograms, and trapezoids
- Area of composite figures
- Radius, diameter, circumference, and area of a circle
- Real world problems

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 March, the grade 6 students will continue to learn about the different states of matter and begin a new unit on molecular attractions. They will explore the following topics:

- Diffusion and distillation
- Polar and nonpolar molecules
- Chemical compounds
- Ionic, covalent, and metallic bonding
- The effects of pressure, temperature, and volume on gas molecules

Visual Arts: Students will continue to explore the elements of design and develop their artistic skills. This month, students will use the medium of paint and will study:

- Aerial perspective in landscape painting, inspired by the Group of Seven
- The elements of space and colour

Music: The grade 6 music class continues to progress in their music literacy and ukulele ensemble skills. They will continue to develop in areas such as:

- Chording on the ukulele
- Duets and quartet ukulele ensembles
- Composition, harmony, and song writing
- African and Latin American music traditions

Physical Education: Through exposure to a wide variety of activities, students improve their physical fitness and understand the importance of achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle while developing good sportsmanship. This month, students will continue to learn various basketball skills, focusing on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Ball handling
- Shooting (lay-ups and jump-shots)
- Court spacing and passing strategies

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

Upcoming Events

March 4 – Cursive is Cool Contest Deadline (Gr. 1-6)

March 4 – Bob Ingram Event – via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

March 5 – High School Semester 2 Progress Reports Go Home

March 11 – Post-Secondary Pathways Night – via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

March 19 – Exordium – via Zoom at 9:15 a.m.

March 29 – High School Semester 2 Midterms Go Home

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