

March 2021

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to the grammar stage of classical education's trivium. Melissa completed her teaching certification and Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and she currently serves as the Grade 7/8 teacher at Innova Academy. When she's not teaching, or involved with church, Melissa enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two boys. You can usually find them at a hockey rink, playing catch, or doing something active together.



Mrs. Melissa Gazmin  
Teacher

Grade 7 and  
Grade 8

Grade 8 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 month, students will continue to discuss, reflect on, and practice the spiritual disciplines. Students will:

- Discuss the 'why' of fasting and the purpose it can play in our lives
- Discover the importance of silence, solitude, and meditation
- Practice the joy of serving for the purpose of drawing one closer to the Lord

**Logic:** Students will continue their study of logical fallacies using *The Fallacy Detective*. After beginning our study of statistical fallacies in February with a focus on hasty generalizations, we will continue this unit before we culminate with another test at the end of the month. Students will be tested on all the fallacies that involve "making assumptions" as well as the following:

- Hasty generalizations
- Weak analogies
- *Post hoc ergo propter hoc*
- Proof by lack of evidence

**Literature:** This month, students will read, discuss, analyze, think, and write critically in response to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Specific lessons include:

- Characterization
- Similes and metaphors
- Descriptive writing
- Comprehension questions and analysis of text
- Digging deeper – making the text more personal by applying God's Word

**Writing:** During the month of March, students will participate in a creative writing unit on playwriting. The unit will culminate with student adaptations of scenes found within our novel of study, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Specific lessons include:

- Understanding plot, theme, character, and setting in playwriting
- Understanding play structure and format
- Writing character and setting descriptions, dialogue, and stage directions
- Understanding monologues and asides in plays
- Understanding how and why playwrights use idioms, slang, and jargon
- Adapting a story into a script for a readers' theater performance

**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, focus will be placed on:

- Correcting comma splices, fused sentences, and run-ons
- Rules for punctuating titles
- Using conjunctions and interjections in playwriting
- Punctuation associated with playwriting

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will continue learning both Latin and Greek root words with our *English from the Roots Up* curriculum. This month, students will continue learning words derived from the following roots:

- Monos (G) - alone, solitary
- Solus (L) - alone, only
- Fides (L) - faith, trust
- Vox/Vocis (L) - voice

## Grade 8 – 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.

- Loquor/Locutus (L) - speak

**French:** During the month of March, students will continue to learn French vocabulary and grammar, memorize Scripture in French, and study the play *Un frère pénible*. Students will:

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French
- Use vocabulary and actions from the play in new contexts
- Finish memorizing and begin rehearsing *Un frère pénible*
- 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
- Memorize verses from the book of James (*Jacques*) selected by students

**Mathematics:** This month in mathematics, students will complete chapter 8 (Geometric Transformations) and begin chapter 9 (Congruency & Similarity). Topics include:

- Translations
- Reflections
- Rotations
- Dilations
- Understanding and applying congruent and similar figures

**Science:** Science provides us with unique ways of seeing God's creative presence in the world. This month, students will focus on the study of rocks and minerals and explore the following topics:

- Types of atomic bonds
- Mineral identification
- Crystal and mineral formations
- Rock types and formations

**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 8 music class continues to progress in their music literacy and hand chimes ensemble. This month, they will also work on ear training, composition, and rhythm ensembles. Specific items covered are:

- Hand chime repertoire
- Identifying intervals, scales, and chords by ear
- Composition: final drafts

**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 about and play basketball. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Ball handling
- Best shooting practices
- Setting up plays

*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.