

April 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.



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Teacher

Grade 6

Grade 6  
Miss Melanie Pretorius  
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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 April, students will:

- Complete the study of Jesus' Resurrection through the discussion of Jesus' appearances and ascension to heaven
- Explore the prayers of George Mueller
- Learn about and discuss the bravery and faith of Harriet Tubman

**Literature:** This month, students will begin studying the classic novel, *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. Students will:

- Learn about the life of Robert Louis Stevenson
- Explore the historical backdrop of the novel
- Master vocabulary from the novel
- Analyze and discuss plot development, characterization, literary elements, and biblical application
- Contribute meaningfully to group discussions by explaining ideas, building upon others' comments, and asking questions

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

- Review lessons learned from their first debate
- Review the terminology and structure of a debate
- Research, organize, and write notes for 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 the E-dropping rule

**Grammar:** Grammar study develops students' awareness and understanding of how the English language is structured. As students work through the grammar program, they apply their knowledge to writing in all subject areas. This month's grammar study focuses on:

- Distinguishing between main and dependent clauses
- Identifying clause starters
- Review and apply comma rules
- Identifying coordinating conjunctions

**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: *ora* – mouth; *test* – witness; *fort* – strong; *poten* – powerful
- Greek: *log/loqu* – thought, word, speech; *dyna* – power

**French:** In French this month, students will review everyday vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and study and apply grammar rules in their writing. Students will:

- Use gestured vocabulary from the AIM program in new contexts
- Work toward speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts
- Review and practice present tense verb conjugation

## 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.

- Review the guidelines for using the infinitive form of a verb
- Answer yes/no questions and open-ended questions using double verb constructions including infinitives
- Memorize Romans 12:2 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 April, students will continue to study historical events during the seventeenth century. This month, students will focus on:

- The Moghul Emperors of India
- The English Civil War
- Louis XIV – The Sun King

**Mathematics:** This month in mathematics, students will begin Chapter 11: Circumference and Area of Circles. Topics from this chapter include:

- Calculating radius, diameter, circumference, and area of a circle
- Real world problems involving circles

**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 April, the grade 6 students will continue to learn about molecular attractions and chemical properties. They will review or explore the following topics:

- Chemical compounds
- Ionic, covalent, and metallic bonding
- The effects of pressure, temperature, and volume on gas molecules
- The properties of carbon and oxygen
- The chemical composition of salts
- The decomposition of sugars by fungi such as yeast

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will begin a group project to reproduce "The Arnolfini Wedding Portrait" by Jan van Eyck. Each student will be given a piece of the reproduction to enlarge using a grid which will then be assembled and exhibited in our virtual art exhibition. Students will also create a low relief sculpture using aluminum based on the Florence baptistery bronze doors "The Gates of Paradise" by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Students will:

- Enlarge a picture using the grid method
- Pay attention to detail and accuracy
- Apply the elements of line and texture to create a design on the metal

**Music:** In April, the grade 6 class will continue to expand their knowledge of ukulele, the treble clef staff, and ensemble playing as well as practice their spring concert repertoire. Topics include:

- F scale on ukulele
- Eras of western classical music
- Rhythmic ensemble playing
- Chording on the ukulele
- Theory

**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 begin their unit on ultimate frisbee. Students will:

- Begin each class stretching, demonstrating proper technique
- Improve physical endurance through running
- Learn to throw a frisbee to develop accuracy
- Learn the rules of ultimate frisbee
- Work as a team

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

## Upcoming Events

- April 1 – High School Parent Teacher Interviews
- April 2 – Good Friday – No school
- April 5-16 – Spring Break – No school
- April 7 – Blakey Art Competition Deadline – Gr. 9-11
- April 19 – Students Return to School from Spring Break
- April 19 – Apologetic Series for Parents
- April 28 – CLT10 (Classic Learning Test) – Gr. 9/10

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