

April 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 displays His love and takes care of His people. In the New Testament, Jesus's life and ministry exemplify His kindness and love. This month, students will look at to the following topics:

- The Lord's Prayer
- The Greatest Commandment
- Memory Verse: "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

Language Arts: Students will continue to practice mastering the letters of the alphabet and their respective sounds. With the use of various tactile activities, songs, and chants, students practice proper letter formation. As they demonstrate readiness, students read books from our individual reading program. Skills focused on include:

- Phonics: review sounds of the letters /o/, /d/, /g/, /k/, /v/ and short /a/ and /o/
- Beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words
- Learning word family vocabulary
- Expanding mastery of sight words
- Reading phonics-based books from the individual reading program
- Poetry: The Turtle
- Writing: message centre letters to friends and writing three letter word family words

Mathematics: Students will learn to recognize and say their numbers through counting and use various tactile means to practice proper number formation. This month, students will learn about:

- Comparing numbers
- Relating numbers and quantity
- Writing numbers 1-10

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.

Culture and Geography: In April, students will review Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest. They will learn about the Andes Mountains, the Quechua people, and the Pampas (Grasslands) in South America. Learning objectives for this month include:

- Locate South America, the Andes Mountains, and the Pampas regions on a map
- Learn about the culture and traditions of the Quechua people
- Understand the differences between alpacas and llamas
- Explore the culture of the people living in the Pampas region

Science: This month in science, students will study butterflies and spring and enjoy participating in various hands-on activities. Students will:

- Learn about the life cycle of butterflies
- Discover what a proboscis is and make their own proboscis to drink nectar
- Make edible dirt
- Study the characteristics of insects

Art: This month, students will develop and expand on the new skills of etching and sponging introduced in March. Students will focus on the following:

- Etching using toothpicks in wax
- Adding texture using sponges/feathers
- Introduction to the element of Value

Music: As we enter the final months of the school year, the Junior Kindergarten class will begin preparing repertoire for the spring concert. They will also review all they have learned throughout the year and continue to build on their skill on the Orff instruments.

More specific goals include:

- Keeping a steady off-beat pulse on unpitched percussion
- Mallet technique
- Repetitive patterns on the Orff instruments
- Identifying rhythmic notation
- Identifying *so-mi*

Physical Education: During physical education classes, students develop agility, flexibility, endurance, and gross motor skills as well as practice good sportsmanship. In April, students will focus on:

- Group stretching and exercises
- Opportunities for students to take lead roles in executing stretches and strides
- Bouncing and catching balls

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.