

May 2021

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 6

Miss Melanie Pretorius

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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 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 complete the study of Jesus' resurrection and ascension and begin an in-depth study of Pentecost and the mission of the apostles. During the month of May, students will:

- Discover the provision of the Holy Spirit and the equipping of Christ followers
- Study how the early church grew and matured as a result of persecution
- Examine the life of Harriet Tubman, David Livingstone, and Jim Elliot

Literature: In May, students will continue studying the classic novel, *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. Students will:

- 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: Students will complete writing assignments based on their analysis of *Treasure Island*. Students will:

- Respond to prompts demonstrating an understanding and application of plot and themes
- Support an opinion with detail from the text and incorporate direct quotations
- Construct well-structured paragraphs paying attention to required compositional elements
- Write a final essay based on the theme of greed

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
- 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:

- Review and practice all grammar rules learned
- Demonstrate proper use of homophones
- Demonstrate proper use of punctuation

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 Latin roots *fort* (strong) and *poten* (powerful)
- Learn words derived from the Greek root *dyna* (power)
- Use words learned in past units to write creative sentences and short stories

French: In French this month, students will review everyday vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and begin the planning process for writing a story using grammatically correct sentences. Students will:

- 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
- Build basic sentence banks containing subjects, verbs, and objects
- Use simple sentences to answer yes/no questions and open-ended questions in French
- Continue to memorize Romans 12:2 in French

History/Geography: This year, the study of history focuses on people, culture, and events around the world from 1450 to 1800. During the month of May, topics include:

- William Penn's holy experiment
- The universal laws of Newton and Locke
- Peter the Great
- The English in India

Mathematics: This month in mathematics, students will complete a unit on surface area and volume of solids and then begin an introductory unit on statistics. Topics from these units will include:

- Nets and surface area of solids
- Volume of Prisms
- Word problems
- Collecting and tabulating data
- Dot plots
- Histograms

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 May, the grade 6 students will complete a unit on molecular attractions. Students will:

- Review compounds and bonding, properties of the different states of matter, and atomic structure
- Complete a project to illustrate one of the concepts learned since January

Visual Arts: Over the course of this year, students are learning about the elements and principles of design and techniques using a variety of art forms including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. This month, students will:

- Learn about printmaking
- Begin a sculpture unit

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

- World music
- Intervals and scales on a staff and on the ukulele
- Rhythm
- Spring concert repertoire

Physical Education: While online this month, physical education lessons will include a series of pre-recorded videos of various workouts and activities that students can complete with limited to no equipment. Exercises will focus on the following:

- Cardiovascular fitness
- Strength
- Muscular endurance
- Balance
- Coordination
- Flexibility

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

Upcoming Events

- May 3, 10 & 17 – Apologetics For Innova Parents With Tim Barnett
- May 5 – Community Safety Village (virtual) – grade 1 – 11:00
- May 7 – Community Safety Village (virtual) - grade 2 – 1:30
- May 10 – Walk Through Literature Day
- May 14 – House Spelling B Competition
- May 24 – Victoria Day – No School
- May 28 – Community Safety Village (virtual) – SK – 9:00

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