

May 2021

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 7

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 7 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 study doctrines of the Christian faith by reading through the book, *Emblems of the Infinite King* and examining various Scripture passages. In addition, students will grow in the knowledge of our Saviour through the study of the attributes of God. This month, students will:

- Study the doctrine of God and the doctrine of humanity
- Discuss the significance of God being infinite and sovereign
- Participate in the 4:12 Challenge (based on 1 Timothy 4:12) by setting spiritual, social, physical, and personal time goals

Logic: Now that students have completed units on "Avoiding the Question", "Making Assumptions", and "Statistical Fallacies", they will finish the year with the last unit on "Propaganda" using *The Fallacy Detective*. In May, students will study propaganda techniques such as:

- Appeal to fear (manipulating conduct using the fear of consensus)
- Appeal to pity (manipulating conduct using pity for someone or something associated with him)
- Bandwagon (convincing someone to do or not do something because of what others are doing)
- Exigency (the use of urgent timelines to force a decision)
- Repetition (persuasion through persistent communication)
- Transfer (the subtle transfer of our good or bad feelings about one thing to another unrelated thing)

Writing & Rhetoric: During the month of May, after finishing their essays on Carry A. Nation, students will use what they have learned in writing and grammar to successfully research, compose, and present a biography to the class. This project will include:

- Either an encomium or vituperative five-paragraph essay with the following parts:
 - Introduction: hook and thesis statement
 - Early life: birth, parents, childhood, education
 - Adulthood: successes and failures, marriage, family, friendships
 - Elder years and death
 - Conclusion: influence on others, historical significance
- Use of rhetorical devices and appeals:
 - Parallelism, alliteration, anaphora, epistrophe, hyperbole, hypophora, etc.
 - Ethos, pathos, and logos
- Presentation of subject
 - PowerPoint may be used
 - Dress as the person written about
 - Tell the person's life story as the person himself/herself

Grammar: This year, students are using the IEW grammar program titled *Fix It! Grammar*. In this program, students 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 run-on sentences without overusing coordinating conjunctions
- Review of comma and semi-colon rules
- Checking to see if the commonly confused words *then* and *than* are used correctly

Grade 7 – 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.

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 resume learning words derived from the following roots:

- Hyper (G): above, overly, beyond
- Hypo (G): under, below
- Super (L): on top, above, over
- Sub (L): under, below, beneath

French: During the month of May, students will review everyday vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and study and apply grammar rules to their spoken and written French. Students will:

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French
- Review and practice present tense verb conjugation and using infinitives
- Build sentence banks containing subjects, verbs, and objects
- Answer yes/no questions and open-ended questions about video clips and well-known stories
- Memorize verses from the book of James (*Jacques*) selected by students

Mathematics: This month, students will complete a unit on the volume and surface area of solids. Specific lessons will include:

- Recognizing cylinders, cones, spheres, and pyramids
- Finding volume and surface area of cylinders, pyramids, spheres, and cones
- Solving real-world problems involving composite solids

Science: In May, students will study plate tectonics and weather formation. Areas of investigation include:

- The evidence for Pangaea
- Three types of tectonic boundaries
- The composition of our atmosphere
- Earth's global pattern of wind

Visual Arts: This month, students will create a watercolour painting based on landscapes by French Impressionists. They will learn the art technique of sgraffito using scratch art paper as well as look at post-Impressionist artists. Students will also do some sketching outdoors! Students will:

- Learn about the elements of design - colour and value
- Learn about the element of design - line to define areas of light and shadow

Music: In music this month, students will fine tune their compositions in preparation for the spring concert. They will also continue music history and begin a unit on singing. Topics of study will include:

- Theory and the foundations for writing music
- Composition
- Romantic Era
- Singing technique

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.