

June 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 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 continue their study of the attributes of God. This month, students will:

- Study the doctrine of sin and salvation
- Discuss the holiness, power, and love of God
- Continue to complete the 4:12 Challenge (based on 1 Timothy 4:12) by achieving their spiritual, social, physical, and personal time goals

Logic: This month, students will conclude their study of logical fallacies using *The Fallacy Detective* by completing their unit on "Propaganda". Students will write their end-of-year test on the nine propaganda techniques we have studied, including:

- Appeal to Fear: using the fear of consequences to manipulate action
- Appeal to Pity: exploiting compassion and/or guilt to compel behaviour without rational consideration of the choice
- Bandwagon: the use of social pressure to convince someone to do or believe something
- Exigency: the use of nothing more than a time limit as a reason for us to do what someone wants
- Repetition: repeating a message loudly and very often in the hope that it will be believed
- Transfer: the technique of transferring our good or bad feelings about something to another unrelated thing
- Snob Appeal: persuading us to purchase a product because it will distinguish us from others
- Appeal to Tradition: using nothing more than something's connection to the past to persuade others of its superiority
- Appeal to Hi-Tech: using nothing more than something's novelty to persuade others of its superiority

Literature: This month, students will read, think critically about, and analyze the short story "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes. What does it mean to be smart? Is ignorance really bliss? Can everybody, regardless of ability, contribute to society? Is it okay to experiment on humans? Through a biblical lens, students will attempt to answer these questions and more through activities and discussions which include:

- Analyzing theme development and character motivation
- Understanding the author's use of allusions and analogies
- Thinking critically about morals and God as our moral lawgiver
- Using textual evidence in both the short story and the Bible to support points of view

Writing & Rhetoric: During the month of June, students will finish using all 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

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.

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will review both the Latin and Greek root words learned this year in our *English from the Roots Up* curriculum. Activities will include but are not limited to:

- Wordsearches and crossword puzzles
- Jeopardy and Kahoot competitions
- Illustrating roots for clarification
- Final assessment of all roots

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

- Review and practice present tense verb conjugation
- Answer true/false, yes/no, and open-ended questions about video clips and well-known stories
- Prepare and present their own short stories
- Memorize verses from the book of James (*Jacques*) selected by students

Mathematics: For the final month of grade 8 math, students will be completing the final chapter of Math in Focus Course 3, Book B on Probability before beginning a full year cumulative review of the course. Topics from Probability include:

- Compound Events
- Probability of Compound Events
- Independent and Dependent Events

Science: For the last month of this year, students will study the atmosphere and weather, including the following:

- The composition of the atmosphere
- The energy transfer process
- Wind patterns
- Clouds
- Severe storms

Visual Arts: This month, students will enjoy making masks using the collage method inspired by the painting titled "Vertumnus" (portrait made of fruits and vegetables) by Renaissance artist Guiseppe Arcimboldo. Students will:

- Create their own masks
- Make a Father's Day art activity using paper folding

Music: June is the month for review and an opportunity to look at the historical and theoretical areas of music covered this year. In June, the grade 8 class will cover the following:

- Romantic and Modern eras of music
- Theory review
- Performer study

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
- Flexibility
- Muscular endurance

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

Upcoming Events

June 9 – Ripley's Aquarium Field Trip (virtual) – Gr. 1/2
June 11 – Ripley's Aquarium Field Trip (virtual) – Gr. 3-5
June 17 – Spring Concert (virtual)
June 17 – Repairing the Ruins Simulcasts for Parents
June 17-23 – High School Evaluation Days
June 21 - Innova Business Meeting – For all parents at 7:00 p.m.
June 24 – Last Day of Classes (lunch dismissal), Reports Sent Home, and Grade 8 Graduation

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