

March 2018

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Maja graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and English and completed teacher's college at OISE. Her specialty was in secondary education, but she has also worked with elementary students. She has taught in the public school board as well as in a private Christian school and continues to enjoy serving in her church's children's ministry. Maja came to love the classical model after reading the book *Wisdom and Eloquence* as a new teacher. She has enjoyed learning and implementing classical Christian principles in her teaching and with her own family and wants to see other families experience its fruits! Maja loves sports, reading, and having fun with her children, husband, and dogs.



Maja Younan  
Teacher

Grade 2

Grade 2  
Mrs. Maja Younan  
myounan@innovaacademy.ca

Grade 2 students are actively engaged in building foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. We seek to provide a safe and nurturing classroom environment where students can deepen their awareness of God's love and relationship with Him, as well as meet their potential for academic success.

**Bible and History:** This year, Bible and history are integrated into a seamless narrative. The study of Ancient civilizations, with a focus on Egypt, is integrated with Old Testament biblical events. Students will begin to understand history as God's unfolding plan of redemption and appreciate that they are a part of this story. In the month of March, Grade 2 students will continue a study of the book of Psalms. Students will begin memorizing Psalm 46. Topics covered this month include:

- Amenhotep IV and monotheism
- The reign of Tutankhamun

**Literature and Vocabulary:** Grade 2 students continue to build and refine oral reading fluency and comprehension skills. This month, students will begin reading several poems by authors such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Cristina Rossetti, and Shel Silverstein and learn vocabulary related to figures of speech such as alliteration, simile, and metaphor. Students will:

- Practice writing their own short poems
- Work on memorizing one of the poems learned in class
- Examine art that connects to imagery from poems studied
- Illustrate an original poem

**Spelling and Penmanship:** Spelling and penmanship are learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will:

- Learn 20 new words each week
- Write interesting sentences containing weekly words
- Review phonograms and spelling rules
- Continue developing cursive writing skills

**Grammar:** This month, Grade 2 students will complete their unit on contractions. Students will not only understand how contractions are formed but be able to discern when using contractions is appropriate (informal writing) and when they should be avoided (formal writing). Students will identify and form contractions with the following words:

- *Not, am, is, are, have, has, and had*

**Writing:** Grade 2 students will begin writing their first book reports during the month of March. Specific lessons will include:

- Understanding the components of a book report
- Opinions in book reports
- How to organize a book report
- Prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing
- Presentation skills

## Grade 2 – 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.

**Latin:** Grade 2 students will continue to learn Latin using songs and activities to help with retention. This month, students will:

- Continue to learn words related to food
- Complete a review and test on all the food words they have learned

**Mathematics:** Grade 2 students begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalcuLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. This month, students will:

- Learn to add and subtract mentally
- Estimate by rounding numbers

**Science:** This month, students will complete their healthy living unit and begin investigating bones and muscles. Using various tactile means students will explore:

- Having a balanced diet
- The bones in our bodies
- Caring for our bones
- Joints

**Visual arts:** This month in visual arts, students will continue to learn about the art forms used in ancient cultures. Students will continue to memorize and learn verses of an art history song that summarizes the important art history facts that they have learned so far this year. Students will:

- Finish printing using their personalized seals
- Examine mosaic and tile work in ancient cultures
- Learn about warm and cool colours

**Music:** This month, the Grade 2 class will continue to refine their technique on the Orff instruments as well as learn more about reading and writing music on the musical staff. Topics include:

- Syncopated rhythmic notation
- Understanding phrases
- Instruments of the orchestra
- Composition on the musical staff
- Spring concert repertoire

**Physical Education:** During the month of March, Grade 2 students will learn and participate in the game of kickball. Specific skills that will be introduced include:

- Kicking a ball
- Throwing and catching a ball
- Running bases
- Following given rules
- Playing as a team
- Sportsmanship

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

## Upcoming Events

March 1 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga AND Parent-Teacher Interviews  
March 2 – Exordium AND Pizza Lunch  
March 5-16 – March Break – No School  
March 19 – Classes Resume  
March 23 – Pizza Lunch  
March 29 – Pasta Lunch  
March 30 & April 2 – Good Friday & Easter Monday – No School

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