

April 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
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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 April, students will continue to memorize Psalm 46.

Topics covered this month include:

- Later New Kingdom in Egypt
- Davidic Kingdom
- Solomon's Kingdom

Literature, Vocabulary, and Reading Fluency: Grade 2 students will continue to build and refine oral reading fluency and comprehension skills. This month, students will begin a novel study of *The Sword in the Tree* by Clyde Robert Bulla. Students will:

- Discuss the story and identify story elements such as setting, characters, and plot
- Identify the moral or lesson of the story
- Define, memorize, and use new vocabulary from the story

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

- Review phonograms
- Learn 20 new list words each week
- Use a dictionary to help with writing creative sentences

Grammar: During the month of April, Grade 2 students will complete a unit on word study. Specific lessons will include:

- Synonyms & Antonyms
- Context Clues
- Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots
- Homophones

Writing: Grade 2 students will write non-fiction reports during the month of April. This unit will include lessons on the following:

- What is a research report?
- The differences between fact and opinion
- Finding facts
- Writing and organizing notes
- Writing paragraphs with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence

Latin: In April, Grade 2 students will continue to learn Latin using songs and activities to help with retention. Please encourage your child to practice their words at home using their flash cards and songs. This month, students will:

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.

- Continue creating flash cards with new words
- Learn words related to weather, the seasons, and the sky

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 about:

- Money
- Fractions
- Time

Science: This month in science, students will continue learning about the human body. Through various hands on experiments students will explore both the skeletal and muscular system in our bodies. Topics this month will include:

- What are bones like?
- What bones are in your body?
- How should we care for our bones?
- What are joints like?
- What do skeletal muscles do?
- What do involuntary muscles do?
- How should we care for our muscles?

Visual arts: This month in visual arts, students will examine mosaic and tile work found in ancient civilizations followed by portraiture. Students will:

- Learn about warm and cool colours
- Learn about mosaic and tile artwork
- Examine Egyptian portraiture
- Learn about proportions and techniques for drawing people and create their own portrait in Egyptian style

Music: As we enter the final months of the school year, the Grade 2 class will begin preparing repertoire for the spring concert. They will also gather and apply their knowledge of rhythmic and musical notation to create a musical composition. They will also continue to prepare their choral pieces and develop their knowledge of the orchestra. Specific skills include:

- Time signatures
- Playing and listening as an ensemble
- Writing music
- Identifying instruments of the orchestra
- Playing Orff instruments

Physical Education: During the month of April, Grade 2 students will learn and play the game of lacrosse. Specific skills will include:

- Passing and catching with the lacrosse stick
- Running with a lacrosse stick
- Scoring goals in lacrosse
- Practicing good sportsmanship

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

Upcoming Events

April 2 – Easter Monday – No School
April 6 & 20 – Pizza Lunch
April 17 – TSO Field Trip (JK-2) – Roy Thomson Hall
April 23 – Badminton Tournament (Gr. 7/8) - Stouffville
April 26 – Math Olympics (Gr. 4-8) - Mississauga
April 27 – Pasta Lunch

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