

May 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. During the month of May, students will continue and complete their memorization of Psalm 46. Students will also learn the countries of Western Europe through song. Topics covered this month include:

- Alexander the Great conquers Egypt
- Egypt falls to Rome

**Literature, Vocabulary, and Reading Fluency:** Students will continue to work in literature groups to develop oral reading fluency, demonstrate reading comprehension, participate in small group discussions, and work on group assignments. This month, students will:

- Read poems about the weather and work on memorizing a poem of their choice
- Build on past poetry study of poetic devices to develop a greater understanding of metaphors, personification, and imagery
- Read a *Cam Jansen* story by David Adler
- Write their own short mystery story using the form learned from reading the novel
- Learn about formatting in literature, and how to create a cover, title page, and artwork of their own, to go along with the story they have written

**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 continue to develop vocabulary, learning 20 new words a week and writing sentences using these words. This month, students will:

- Continue to practice the 70 phonograms using flash cards and games to help with retention
- Learn to write more complex sentences

**Grammar:** For the months of May and June, Grade 2 students will learn and apply various study skills. Specific lessons will include:

- Arranging words in alphabetical order
- Developing dictionary skills
- Identifying the parts of a book
- Distinguishing between fiction and non-fiction
- Using the internet

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

- What is a research report?
- The differences between fact and opinion
- Finding facts

## 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.

- Writing and organizing notes
- Writing paragraphs with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence

**Latin:** Students will continue to learn vocabulary for water words, gardening, and playing outdoors. They will:

- Review the year's vocabulary and prepare for an end of the year Latin project
- Memorize vocabulary through games, songs, and flash cards

**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 measurement, time, and multiplication tables of 3 and 4
- Work on skip counting songs up to 15
- Apply learning to real-world situations at home and at school as part of a class project

**Science:** This month in science, students will begin our STEM program. Through various tactile experiences, students will focus on the engineering design process through constructing sturdy building designs. Topics covered this month include:

- Building a playground structure
- Engineering principles such as gears and levers

**Visual arts:** This month in visual arts, students will examine ancient portraits from Egypt. They will learn about changes in portraiture over the course of history as they observe that portraiture changed as Egypt was conquered by the Greeks and Romans. Students will:

- Complete their class mosaic
- Create self-portraits in the style of the ancient Egyptians
- Learn about proportions and drawing people

**Music:** Grade 2 students are very busy preparing for the Innova spring concert on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The content of their concert repertoire includes concepts such as:

- Singing technique
- Instruments of the orchestra
- Orff ensemble
- Boomwhackers ensemble
- Rhythm

**Physical Education:** During the month of May, students will enjoy the warmer weather by completing an introductory unit on track and field. Specific lessons will include:

- Short and long-distance running
- Relay races
- Long jump

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

## Upcoming Events

- May 4 – Exordium – Parents Welcome **AND** Pizza Lunch
- May 7 – Science Fair – Gym
- May 10 – Shape Event with Lee Strobel – Main Sanctuary
- May 11 – Pastors' Appreciation Breakfast
- May 16 – York Immunization Clinic (Gr. 7)
- May 17 – Spring Concert and Art Exhibit – Main Sanctuary
- May 18 – Mission Trip to the Dominican (Gr. 7/8) **AND** Pizza Lunch
- May 23 – Zoo Field Trip (JK-Gr. 2)
- May 29 – Track and Field (Gr. 7/8) – Centennial Park
- May 31 – Track and Field (Gr. 3-6) – Centennial Park

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