

September 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 3 and
Grade 4



Grade 4
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Grade 4 students are actively engaged in building foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with reading, discussion, singing, 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.

Christian Education: Grade 4 students will begin the year learning about God's plan of salvation and how knowing Jesus as our Saviour brings us into God's family. They will study Ephesians 4:29, 31, and Psalm 119:9-12. Specific areas of study include the following:

- How we are transformed through Christ
- The impact our transformation has on how we love others and love God's word
- Begin to memorize Psalm 19

Literature: This month, students will begin their first novel study, *Stone Fox*, by John Reynolds Gardiner. Their study will include:

- Vocabulary taken from the novel
- Developing reading comprehension skills through group discussion and written exercises
- Writing a short novel summary at the end of their study

Writing: Grade 4 students will work on writing a personal narrative. They will read examples of personal narratives and learn to compose their own. Specific skills include:

- Structuring stories with a beginning, middle, and end
- Learning to write in paragraph form
- Adding details to make a story interesting
- Using strong verbs and colourful adjectives to add interest

Spelling and Grammar: As students study spelling and grammar, they develop greater awareness of how the English language is structured and apply their skills to writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Review and continue to memorize phonograms
- Begin work on weekly lists
- Write original sentences using list words
- Learn jingles and chants to help memorize the eight parts of speech
- Practice exercises to apply their knowledge

Latin: In Latin, students will learn 5-10 new vocabulary words each week. Songs and games will be used to help with memorization. This month's focus is on the following:

- Days of the week
- Months of the year

French: This month, Grade 4 students will begin learning important vocabulary for classroom communication. They will be introduced to the story and vocabulary from the first play they will be studying this year. Students will begin to participate in classroom activities and learn important grammar concepts. Students will:

- Learn vocabulary from *Le chat et la lune*
- Listen to and begin to say the story of *Le chat et la lune* as a class
- Answer questions and begin to speak in simple sentences
- Learn the numbers 1-20

Grade 4 – 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.

History: This year, Grade 4 students will explore the Middle Ages with a focus on Eastern Empires and the Americas. They will also learn several geography songs to help develop mapping skills and aid in memorizing names of countries. Topics covered this month include:

- The Medieval Indian Empire
- Medieval China

Mathematics: Students will continue to improve computation skills through daily math drills using the *Calculadder* program. They will also review skip-counting songs. This month, students will focus on:

- Place values of whole numbers up to 100 000
- Estimation

Science: Students will begin their study of science by learning about scientific investigations. Students will:

- Develop an understanding of how scientists ask questions, form hypothesis, and create experiments
- Work in small groups to practice scientific investigation by creating their own experiments and testing them in class

Visual Arts: Students will begin the year by examining the art of Ancient Rome to lay the foundation for the study of medieval art. They will learn about different art forms used in the Roman empire and examine the artistic themes of the culture. Students will investigate the use of shapes in historical artwork and create artwork using a variety of shapes. Areas of study will include:

- Roman frescoes and mosaics
- Organic and geometric shapes
- Positive and negative shapes

Music: Grade 4 music students use the basic knowledge they have learned and apply it to more complex musical techniques. Students begin to apply their knowledge of the musical staff and understand the theory behind the music they perform. In September, the Grade 4 class will review basic musical skills in preparation for the applications that will follow in the coming months. These skills include:

- Review of the solfege scale
- Review of stick notation of whole, half, quarter, eighth notes and rests
- Unison singing, introduction to canons
- Review of the musical staff: treble clef and notes from C4 to G6
- Maintaining a steady pulse
- Echoing short rhythms and solfege patterns
- Review sections of the orchestra and introduce brass instruments
- Listening: *Don Quixote, Variation II* by Richard Strauss

Physical Education: During physical education classes, students will develop agility, flexibility, endurance, and gross motor skills. They will be graded based on participation, respectful attitude, sportsmanship, and physical skills demonstrated in class. This month, students will enjoy playing soccer, focusing on the following areas:

- The rules of soccer
- Ball handling
- Passing
- Scoring
- Soccer baseball

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

Upcoming Events

September 4 - First Day of Classes

September 8 - Back to School Social at the Makarenko's – 12-2 p.m.

September 24 – Picture Day – Lifetouch AND

Gr. 7 Immunization Clinic – York Region Public Health

September 25 - ACSI Coed Soccer (Gr. 4-6) - Stouffville

September 27 – Community Safety Village Field Trip (JK-2)

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