

November 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: In Grade 4, students begin to study the Old Testament with a focus on understanding what it means for people to be created in God's image. Lessons emphasize a Christian's identity in relationship to God, and what that identity promises and requires. This month, students will learn about Moses and the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. Students will:

- Read their Bibles and answer questions about the text by citing verse references
- Continue to memorize passages of Scripture each week and discuss the meaning of the texts
- Memorize the books of the Old Testament
- Copy passages from Exodus and draw pictures to portray key events

Literature: Students in Grade 4 have begun their novel study of *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. This month, students will:

- Read several chapters aloud in class each week
- Begin diorama projects to portray key scenes from the novel
- Complete comprehension exercises through group discussion and written responses
- Make connections with personal experiences and write short summaries of lessons learned
- Learn new vocabulary words and use a dictionary to find and write out definitions
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of a word or phrase in a text

Writing: Students will continue to practice writing more complex sentences using proper formatting and grammar. Students will:

- Listen to short passages from history and literature and practice narrating short key point summaries to use as the basis for copy work
- Listen to dictations of short passages and practice copying with attention to proper formatting

Spelling and Grammar: Students will continue to practice memorizing phonograms along with learning twenty new spelling words each week. Students will continue to:

- Write creative sentences using proper grammar and sentence structure
- Understand nouns and the way they are used in sentences
- Practice diagramming sentences and identifying various grammatical elements throughout
- Learn the "IE or EI?" rule and practice applying it to spell unfamiliar words

Latin: This month, students will review vocabulary from chapters 1-7. They will:

- Continue to practice Latin songs to reinforce memorization of new words
- Create short, written pieces with drawings to demonstrate knowledge of vocabulary words

French: This month, students will learn about masculine and feminine nouns. Students will continue working towards memorizing the play *Le chat et la lune*. Students will:

- Practice songs about French vocabulary
- Continue to learn new gestures and French vocabulary
- Begin answering questions in writing
- Continue practicing and memorizing the play
- Work towards speaking exclusively in French

History: This month in history, students will continue to learn about medieval Asia and the first peoples of Australia. Students will:

- Read about medieval Japan and the first peoples of Australia
- Write short narrative summaries of chapters

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.

- Begin a history scrapbook including creating a timeline and placing important events and figures accordingly
- Memorize the names of continents and oceans, countries in south and central Asia, and labelling them on a map
- Define geography terms and label them on maps

Mathematics: This month, students will continue to develop their proficiency in timed multiplication drills. Students will:

- Multiply by 2-digit numbers
- Divide with regrouping
- Divide by 1-digit numbers
- Solve real-world problems using multiplication and division

Science: This month, students will discover more about God's creation and their relationship to it by studying plants. Students will:

- Learn about plants and their growth
- Categorize and name various plant species
- Practice growing their own seedlings and testing various hypotheses about plant growth
- Go on nature walks to discover various plant species in the local environment
- Read from the Bible about the creation account and recognize the beauty of various elements of nature in relationship to plants
- Draw pictures of various plant species found during their nature walks and create a science discovery notebook with findings

Visual Arts: In visual arts this month, students will learn about printmaking in Chinese and Japanese art history. Students will examine artworks from Asia and learn about symmetry in printmaking. Students will:

- Continue working on watercolour techniques
- Investigate the use of value in Chinese and Japanese artworks
- Learn about the history of printmaking and printmaking techniques

Music: In music class, Grade 4 students are reviewing music notation rhythmically, with solfege, and with note names. They will learn more musical terms, instruments, and hear famous classical music. They will also begin preparing for the Christmas concert in December. Lessons include:

- Treble clef staff: directional reading with solfege or note names
- 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 meters
- Legato and staccato
- Christmas repertoire
- Singing in canon
- Orchestra: woodwinds and percussion
- Listening: *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*

Physical Education: During the physical education periods, students have begun to learn about their role as teammates and how to practice sportsmanship. These skills will be further developed through playing basketball as students practice the following skills:

- Practice dribbling with both hands
- Learn how to make a proper chest pass and bounce pass
- Learn about the rules of basketball
- Play games to develop passing accuracy, speed, and proper positioning

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

Upcoming Events

November 1 – Walk Through History Day – Parents Welcome at 8:30 a.m.

November 7 – Remembrance Day Chapel – Parents Welcome

November 9 – Pizza Lunch AND Interim Reports Go Home

November 15 – Interim Parent/Teacher Check In

November 20 – Prayer Meeting – Parents Welcome in Room A at 8:30 a.m.

November 23 – Pizza Lunch

November 30 – Exordium – Parents Welcome

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