

December 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

Mrs. Maja Younan

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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:** This month, students will focus on learning about and preparing their hearts for Christmas. Students will:

- Read daily advent devotionals
- Read, copy, and memorize relevant passages from Scripture
- Memorize the carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
- Listen to read-aloud stories about the Christmas narrative and participate in discussion about the meaning of Christmas and its relationship to the Gospel
- Participate in an in-class service project to practice showing love and generosity to fellow classmates

**Literature:** Students will complete their novel study of *Farmer Boy*. They will continue to read various poems and discuss poetic devices and meaning. Students will then begin reading short, historical stories about Christian men and women. Students will:

- Memorize, copy, and recite poems
- Identify and analyze how a poet uses language to appeal to the senses, create imagery, and set tone
- Recognize the author's or poet's purpose
- Participate in group discussion and compose written responses
- Apply biblical principles and explore lessons learned from a text

**Writing:** Students will practice writing each day using proper formatting and grammar to write more complex sentences. They will then begin writing paragraphs. Students will:

- Listen to short passages from history and literature and practice narrating short summaries of key points to use as the basis for copy work
- Listen to dictations of short passages and practice copying with attention to proper formatting
- Practice writing short, descriptive paragraphs
- Develop more complex paragraph structure through editing and rewriting

**Spelling and Grammar:** As students study spelling and grammar, they develop a greater awareness of how the English language is structured and apply their skills to writing across the curriculum. This month, 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 verbs and the way they are used in sentences
- Read literature and identify verbs and their uses through discussion and by copying short passages and highlighting verbs
- Learn the "Silent E" rule and apply it to words and sentences

**Latin:** This month, students will learn new vocabulary words and practice using them through song, informal conversation, and short written pieces. Topics include:

- Celebrations
- Royalty
- Military matters

## 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.

**French:** This month, students will learn the difference between masculine and feminine adjectives. Students will continue to practice using the articles le, la, and les in conversation. Students will:

- Continue to learn new gestures and French vocabulary
- Practice writing sentences in French and learn about sentence structure
- Continue practicing and memorizing the play
- Work towards speaking exclusively in French

**History:** This year, Grade 4 students will explore the Middle Ages with a focus on Eastern Empires, Australia, Africa, and the Americas. Topics covered this month include:

- The First Peoples of Australia
- Medieval Africa

**Mathematics:** This month, students will begin to learn about data and probability. They will also continue to learn about fractions and mixed numbers. Students will practice using strategies to solve real-world problems. Topics include:

- Average
- Median, mean, mode, and range
- Outcomes
- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Mixed numbers

**Science:** Students will discover more about God's creation and their relationship to it by studying forces and electricity. Students will participate in labs to discover how forces work. They will practice creating experiments by asking questions related to forces and energy, determining hypothesis, and recording data. Topics include:

- Heat energy
- Sound energy
- Electrical energy
- Circuits

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will complete their watercolour paintings in the style of medieval Chinese and Japanese landscape paintings. Students will begin to learn printmaking techniques and examine Japanese woodblock prints from the middle ages. Students will:

- Complete watercolour paintings
- Learn about the history of printmaking and printmaking techniques
- Continue memorizing an art history song

**Music:** Innova students are very busy preparing for our annual Christmas concert. Over the next weeks, music classes will mostly consist of:

- Polishing pieces for the Christmas performance
- Working together as an ensemble

**Physical Education:** Students will complete their unit on basketball, applying the skills they learned to games. Students will:

- Learn the rules of basketball
- Practice passing, shooting, and dribbling
- Understand the roles of defense and offence in a game situation
- Play various modified games to develop specific skills

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

## Upcoming Events

December 4 & 18– Prayer Meeting – Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome  
December 4, 11, 18 – Lunch Lady Lunch  
December 6 – Pizza Lunch  
December 7 – AGO Field Trip – Gr. 5-9  
December 14 – Special Lunch Lady Lunch  
December 16 – Grade 7/8 Performance at Cedarview  
December 19 – AMICA Christmas Performance  
December 20 – Christmas Concert – Main Sanctuary  
December 21 – Last Day of Classes Before Christmas Break – Noon Dismissal  
December 29 – Christmas Social - NTR  
December 24-January 4 – Christmas Break

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