

January 2019

# 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  
myounan@innovaacademy.ca

*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 learn about the role of the high priest, feasts such as Passover, and sacrifices in the Old Testament. They will discover how these foreshadow the coming of Jesus and His role as the great high priest, Passover lamb, and final sacrifice for sin. Students will:

- Read Scripture aloud
- Memorize selected passages
- Complete an art and writing assignment to demonstrate what they have learned

**Literature:** Students will begin a personal novel study, using a choice of literature from the Independent Reading Program. They will also continue to read various poems and discuss poetic devices and meaning. Students will:

- Copy, memorize, and recite poems
- Identify and analyze how a poet uses language to appeal to the senses, create imagery, and set tone
- Analyze and compare characters using examples from the text
- Recognize and use literary terms: plot, conflict, mood, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and personification
- Present their book reports using effective oral presentations techniques

**Writing:** Students are continuing to practice writing each day using proper formatting and grammar to write longer, more detailed 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 paying attention to proper formatting
- Practice writing personal letters as well as editing and rewriting paragraphs
- Learn about how to write a book report, in preparation for a personal novel study

**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 work on memorizing phonograms along with learning twenty new spelling words each week. Students will:

- Write creative sentences using proper grammar and sentence structure
- Develop a greater understanding of verbs and pronouns and the way they are used in sentences
- Read literature and identify verbs and pronouns through discussion and by copying short passages and highlighting their use

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

- Latin verb endings and conjugation
- Everyday actions
- Adverbs

**French:** This month, students will continue to practice using masculine and feminine adjectives. Additionally, 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

## 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.

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French

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

- Medieval Africa
- The First Russians
- The American Kingdoms: The Mayans, The Marvelous City of Tenochtitlan, The Incas

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

- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Mixed numbers
- Improper fractions
- Fractions of a set
- Real-world problems

**Science:** Students will continue to 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 create 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:** Students will begin the new year by examining the medieval sculptures of Africa. They will investigate the use of shapes in historical artwork and create a 3-dimensional mask using a variety of shapes. Areas of study will include:

- African masks
- Shape, form, and texture

**Music:** In the new year, the Grade 4 class will reinforce their knowledge of rhythm, learn about new composers and their music, and continue to practice singing in harmony and singing in solfege. Topics include:

- Labelling all dynamic markings
- The musical staff and rhythm divisions
- Singing in canon and solfege practice
- Reviewing verse and refrain
- Composer: Handel
- Listening: Handel: *Water Music, Alla Hornpipe*
- Labelling Da Capo

**Physical Education:** Students will begin their unit on volleyball, applying the skills they learn to modified games. Students will:

- Learn proper finger positioning to practice volleys and bumps
- Learn how to set the ball
- Practice serving

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

## Upcoming Events

January 7 – School Resumes

January 8 & 22 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome

January 24-31 – High School Evaluation Days

January 25 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports Sent Home

January 31 – Parent Teacher Interview Night

February 1 – PA Day – All Students – Parent Teacher Interviews

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