

January 2020

# 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.



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Teacher

Grade 2 and  
Grade 3

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. In the month of January, Grade 2 students will begin a study of the book of Psalms, focusing on memorizing Psalm 23. Topics covered this month include:

- The life of Jacob
- The life of Joseph
- The Second Intermediate Period in Egypt

**Literature, Vocabulary, and Reading Fluency:** Through participating in reading groups, students will continue to build and refine phonics skills, oral reading fluency, and reading comprehension. During the month of January, students will complete their novel study of Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Farmer Boy*. While studying this novel, specific attention will be given to the following objectives:

- Participate in class discussion
- Record new vocabulary words and use them in sentences
- Identify beginning, middle, and end of short chapter stories
- Demonstrate comprehension and draw inferences from the text
- Retell a story using narrative language to describe characters, setting, and the plot in proper sequence
- Relate story details to personal experiences
- Demonstrate understanding of literary language (e.g. author, illustrator, characters, setting, plot, dialogue, personification, simile, and metaphor)

**Spelling and Penmanship:** Spelling and penmanship will be learned together using the *Spell to Write and Read* and the *Cursive First* programs. Students will continue to practice reading and writing phonograms each day. They will also continue to learn and apply spelling rules to writing original sentences. Students will:

- Review the following phonograms *igh, ie, dge, wr, ti, ci, si, tch, eigh, ei, ey*
- Learn 20 spelling list words each week
- Learn spelling rules:
  - *i* before *e* except after *c*, if we say *A* and in some exceptions
  - *Sh* used at the beginning of a word at the end of a syllable, but not at the beginning of any syllable after the first one, except for the ending *-ship*
  - *ti, ci, si*: Latin spellings of *sh* used at the beginning of any syllable after the first one
  - Abbreviations use a few letters to represent a larger word

**Grammar:** During the month of January, Grade 2 students will continue to learn about parts of speech and how they are used in poetry and writing. Lessons in this unit include:

- Adjectives, adverbs, 4 kinds of verbs, interjections, and conjunctions
- Poetry copy work and memorization
- 4 types of sentences
- Commas in a series
- Dictation
- Writing a thank-you note and addressing an envelope

**Writing:** This month, students will participate in choral reading and reciting. They will create key-word outlines and practice retelling content from the outline. Students will:

- Memorize and recite poems, "*I Can Be a Tiger*", "*Some One*", and "*After the Party*"

## 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.

- Read the fables, “*The Crow and the Peacocks*”, “*The Lion and the Elephants*”, “*The Dog and His Shadow*”, and the source texts, “*Peacocks*” and “*Elephant Fears*” and use them as the basis for creating key-word outlines
- Write a paragraph from the outline
- Use basic parts of speech
- Identify story elements

**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. Students will begin the new year with a review and then complete a unit on “Metric Measurement of Length.” They will also look at measuring the mass of objects. Specifically, students will learn to:

- Measure and compare length in centimetres and metres
- Measure and compare mass in grams and kilograms
- Complete real-world problems in relation to metric length and metric mass

**Science:** This month, students will continue and finish the unit on the circulatory system. Later this month, students will investigate animals and their habitats. Through various hands on activities, students will:

- Explore the different types of blood vessels
- Learn interesting facts about the circulatory system
- Explore different habitats and how they are unique to different animals

**Latin:** In Latin this month, Grade 2 students will review vocabulary words, learn songs to reinforce vocabulary, and practice using their new words in informal conversation. Students will focus on the following types of vocabulary words:

- Animals
- The body
- The face

**Visual Arts:** Students will create pinch pots and paint them using patterns inspired by ancient artifacts. Topics for this month include:

- Primary and secondary colours
- Using shapes to create patterns
- 3-dimensional works of art
- Seals and cartouches from Ancient Egypt

**Music:** In January, the Grade 2 class will expand their knowledge of the solfege scale, particularly the pentatonic scale. They will begin broken borduns on the Orff instruments and continue to work on their vocal technique. They will also learn a new musical genre and instrument group. Students will:

- Learn to label verse and refrain
- Practice vocal and percussion borduns
- Identify music notation
- Begin an introduction to jazz
- Listen to *Autumn Leaves*

**Physical Education:** Students will complete their unit on team games with an emphasis on forming the heart – learning and playing team games to the glory of God and honouring Him while we engage in competition. Students will:

- Learn the rules of various team-oriented games such as relays and cooperative challenges
- Observe what makes a good team
- Practice language and actions that promote teamwork and cooperation
- Learn to monitor their heart and mind while engaging in competition

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

## Upcoming Events

January 10 – Homeschool Visit Day – South Campus  
January 16 – AMICA Visit – Grades 3/4  
January 17 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports Go Home  
January 17- 23 – High School Evaluation Days  
January 23 – Parent Teacher Interviews  
January 24 – PD Day AND Parent Teacher Interviews  
January 27- 29 – Fair Glen Retreat – Grades 5-10  
January 28 – Fair Glen Field Trip – Grades 3/4

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