

January 2020

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 4

Mr. Jason Namba

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Mr. Namba holds a Master's Degree in Education from Torch Trinity Graduate University, a Bachelor's Degree in History from Biola University, an ACSI teaching certificate, and TESOL certification. He has worked overseas in South Korea as a grammar stage teacher for the Seoul International Christian Academy and has also served as their Lower Grammar Stage Academic Director. His love for classical education is rooted in its deep appreciation for history and its commitment to truth, beauty, and goodness. When Jason is not teaching, he can be found reading, playing board games, cooking, and spending time with his son and wife.



Mr. Jason Namba
Teacher

Grade 3 and
Grade 4

Grade 4 students are actively engaged in building foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classrooms are 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 continue their study in the book of Judges. Students will:

- Read, copy, and memorize, relevant passages from Scripture
- Memorize the cycle of disobedience and redemption found in the book of Judges
- Listen to, respond to, and narrate stories of the major judges
- Participate in in-class activities and projects
- Continue their pilgrimage with Christians in the read aloud of *Pilgrim's Progress*, discussing each character and how they encourage or discourage us towards Jesus

Literature: Students will read a short novella called *The Family Under the Bridge* and then begin a longer literature study on C.S. Lewis' famous *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Students will:

- Participate in group discussions and compose well written responses
- Apply biblical principles and explore lessons learned from a text

Writing: Students will continue to work on creating three paragraph narrative stories while tying key grammatical principles and stylistic dress-ups into their writing. Students will:

- Listen to short passages from history and literature and practice narrating brief key point summaries
- Practice writing short, descriptive paragraphs
- Develop a more complex paragraph structure through editing and rewriting
- Develop a story plot by following a prescribed sequence
- Write with style and accurate grammar

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 continue to practice memorizing phonograms along with learning twenty new spelling words each week.

Students will:

- Write creative sentences using proper grammar and sentence structure
- Identify adverbs and their uses through literature, discussion, and copy work
- Study grammar related to proper nouns, parts of speech, helping verbs, direct objects, subjects and predicates, and linking verbs
- Memorize poems from famous poets
- Learn English spelling rules
- Practice phonogram sounds

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:

- The Norsemen
- The Vikings
- The First Kings of England

Grade 4 Mathematics: This month, students will begin learning about fractions and mixed numbers. Students will practice using strategies to solve real-world problems. Topics include:

- Equivalent fraction review
- Adding, subtracting, and renaming fractions
- Finding fractions in a set
- Adding, subtracting, and converting mixed numbers
- Real world applications of fractions and mixed numbers

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.

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 living things and ecosystems, determining hypothesis, and recording data. Topics include:

- Identifying organism needs
- Understanding food chains
- Observing how organisms interact with their habitats
- Glorifying God through the study of His awesome and unbelievably varied creation

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

- Communicating with others
- Review of verb conjugations
- Memorization of chapter vocabulary songs and famous Latin sayings

French: This month, students will rehearse the play *La poule Maboule* to prepare for their final presentation. Students will continue to practice saying learned vocabulary and writing simple sentences. Students will:

- Rehearse their assigned roles for the play *La poule Maboule*
- Review and learn new gestured vocabulary
- Respond to questions about the story by answering in full sentences
- Learn *Section A* vocabulary and have a vocabulary test at the end of January

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

- Label all dynamic markings
- Learn musical staff and rhythm divisions
- Sing in canon and solfege practice
- Review verse and refrain
- Listen to Handel's *Watermusic Alla Hornpipe*
- Label Da Capo
- Begin playing the recorder

Physical Education: Students will complete their unit on team games. The emphasis is on the heart, understanding that exercise and team games are to glorify God and to honour 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.