

February 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 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 be learning about the stories of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz as well as continue their study of the "Young Pilgrim's Progress". Students will:

- Read stories directly from the Bible
- Engage in discussion about faith, the character of God, and how God works through the lives of the characters in their study this month
- Complete activities based on the characters studied

History: This year, Grade 3 students will explore the Middle Ages with a focus on Western Empires.

Topics covered this month include:

- The First Kings of England
- England After the Conquest
- The Crusades

Literature: Students will begin their study of C.S. Lewis', *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. They will continue to read various poems and discuss poetic devices and meaning. Students will:

- Be exposed to and learn to appreciate great literature from across the ages
- Deepen their vocabulary and sharpen their writing skills by reading excellent examples of superior writing
- Recognize the author's or poet's purpose
- Participate in group discussion and compose written responses
- Explore lessons learned from a text as they relate to biblical principals

Writing: Students will learn to write more complex sentences as they continue to practice writing each day using proper formatting and grammar. This month, students will begin summarizing non-fiction source texts and writing reports. Students will:

- Begin their reports with a topic sentence and end with a clincher sentence
- Highlight 4-6 important or interesting details from a non-fiction source text
- Summarize their chosen details in an outline
- Write a report based on their details
- Edit, revise, and produce a final draft of their work

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
- Read literature and identify verbs and their uses through discussion and by copying short passages and highlighting verbs
- Memorize poems by famous poets
- Study grammar related to the four types of sentences and to prepositions
- Learn rules related to English spelling
- Practice phonogram sounds

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.

Mathematics: This month, students will study data and probability for two weeks before they begin learning about decimals. Students will practice using strategies to solve real-world problems. Topics include:

- Outcomes
- Probability as a fraction
- Understanding tenths and hundredths
- Comparing and rounding decimals
- Mid-year review and assessment

Science: Students will discover more about God's creation and their relationship to it by studying light. Students will participate in labs to discover how light works. Topics include:

- Light
- Shadows
- Reflections and Refractions
- How we see

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

- Verbs, celebration, military, and royalty

French: Students will complete their final presentation of *La Poule Maboule* and will continue to work towards speaking solely in French. Students will:

- Present the play *La Poule Maboule*
- Write complete sentences and answer questions about *La poule Maboule*
- Learn new vocabulary and begin learning the play *Boucle violette*

Visual Arts: This month, students will work on watercolor paintings in the style of Medieval Gothic Tapestries. They will begin to explore printmaking techniques and examine woodblock prints from the middle ages. Students will:

- Complete watercolor paintings
- Learn about the history of Medieval printmaking and printmaking techniques

Music: Students will continue to learn the basics of recorder and music literacy. They will also continue to work on foundational techniques in singing. Specific elements that will be addressed are:

- Notes B, A, G, C, D, and F# on the recorder
- Tone quality in singing
- Labelling and counting rhythmic divisions up to the sixteenth note/rest
- Theme and Variations
- Mozart

Physical Education: Students will work on and complete their unit on volleyball, applying the skills they learned to games. Students will:

- Learn the rules of volleyball
- Practice bumping, setting, jumping, serving, and spiking
- 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

- February 3 – ACSI JR Boys' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Toronto
- February 5 – ACSI JR Girls' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Scarborough
- February 7 – Exordium and Literature Day (All Grades)– North Campus
- February 10 – Parent Night (All Parents) – South Campus
- February 14 – PD Day – No School for Students
- February 17 – Family Day – No School
- February 20 – In-School Speech Meet
- February 27 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival – Mississauga

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