

March 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.



Mrs. Maja Younan
Teacher

Grade 1 and
Grade 2

Grade 1
Mrs. Maja Younan
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Grade 1 students are actively engaged in learning 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. In the month of March, grade 1 students will continue their memorization of John 15. Students will:

- Learn about the Early New Kingdom in Egypt
- Read about Moses' birth and memorize key facts about the biblical account in order to retell it
- Analyze paintings
- Evaluate the use of symbols
- Identify the ways God demonstrated His faithfulness to His covenant people

Literature and Vocabulary: Grade 1 students continue to build and refine oral reading fluency and comprehension skills. During the month of March, students will read the short novel *Nate the Great* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. Students will continue to listen to *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* by Betty MacDonald in our read aloud time. Students will:

- Demonstrate effective listening skills
- Employ oral reading skills
- Identify the setting and the main characters and ideas of the story
- Predict story outcome
- Retell the story in sequential order

Writing: This month, students will participate in choral reading and reciting. They will learn to retell narrative stories from memory using key-word outlines and practice retelling content from the outline. Students will:

- Memorize and recite poems, "*The Little Elf*", "*The Snowman*", "*Mr. Snowman*", and "*The Snowbird*", and "*If I Had a Dollar*"
- Read the texts, "*Fantasy Fun*", "*The Snowmaiden*", "*Home for Winter*", and "*An Afternoon at the Circus*"
- Write a paragraph from the outline
- Use basic parts of speech
- Identify story elements

Spelling, Phonics and Penmanship: Spelling, phonics, and penmanship are learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will:

- Learn 10-20 new spelling words each week
- Construct sentences using spelling words
- Review the following multi-letter phonograms: *ng, oo, ay, ai, ci, ti, si, ph, ui, ough*

Mathematics: Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the *CalcuLadder* math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. This month, students will begin a unit on "Length" before starting a new unit entitled "Picture Graphs and Bar Graphs". Topics and learning strategies include:

- Comparing the length of two or more things

Grade 1 – 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.

- Using a start line to measure length
- Measuring length in standard units
- Creating simple picture graphs
- Using a tally chart and bar graphs

Science: This month, students will investigate liquids and solids. Through various hands on experiences, students will:

- Identify the characteristics of solids and liquids
- Conduct an experiment to learn how to measure solids and liquids
- Observe what solids and liquids feel like
- Draw conclusions about the process of evaporation

Latin: In Latin, Grade 1 students will continue to learn vocabulary, and practice words in informal conversation, songs, and games. Students will:

- Learn new words about manners
- Review vocabulary on greetings, making friends, family members, people, classroom and household items, and classroom commands
- Act in a short dramatization using their Latin vocabulary

Visual Arts: This month, students will use tempera paint on stretched canvasses to create Egyptian landscape scenes. Students will:

- Mix primary colours to create secondary colours
- Consider the elements of design such as line, colour, shape, and space in their composition

Music: The grade 1 class will continue to refine their technique on the Orff instruments as well as continue to learn more about reading and writing music on the musical staff. Additional areas of study will include:

- Syncopated rhythmic notation
- Understanding phrases
- Instruments of the Orchestra
- Composition on the musical staff
- Spring concert repertoire

Physical Education: During our physical education time, students will continue their unit on springing, jumping, and coordination. They will practice transferring weight from one part of the body to another developing balance, strength, and agility. Students will:

- Transfer weight from one foot to the other
- Leap over objects
- Demonstrate jumping and springing
- Play a game of leapfrog

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

Upcoming Events

March 2 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival - Mississauga
March 2-6 – House Basketball Intramurals (Gr. 5-10) – South Campus
March 4 – Royal Ontario Museum (Gr. 3/4 and 9/10)
March 9-20 – March Break – No School
March 24 – Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Gr. 5-10) – Roy Thomson Hall

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