

February 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 Israelites forty years in the wilderness. Students will also look at the biblical meaning of virtues such as humility, compassion, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. Students will continue to:

- Read, discuss, copy, and memorize relevant passages from Scripture
- Learn about key themes in the Bible narrative such as God's faithfulness to keep His promises and the need for a Saviour as foretold in the Old Testament

Literature: Students will continue a novel study on *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park. They will also begin their personal novel study using a choice of literature from Innova's independent reading program. Students will continue to read and memorize poems and discuss poetic devices and meaning. They will also select, memorize, and deliver a poetry or Scripture selection for the public speaking festival. Students will:

- Copy, memorize, and recite poems, using techniques effective for oral presentation
- Recognize literary devices: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, alliteration, and onomatopoeia
- Analyze and compare characters using examples from the text
- Recognize and use literary terms: plot, conflict, mood, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification.

Writing: This month, students will write a book review and practice writing a friendly letter. They will:

- Learn how to summarize the plot
- Gather information about the author
- Evaluate the plot, characters, and setting
- Prepare an outline for their book review
- Write, revise, and proofread their review
- Write a friendly letter and address an envelope

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 practice memorizing phonograms along with learning twenty new spelling words each week. Students will:

- Learn two new spelling rules and practice using them by categorizing words that apply to the rules
- Continue to identify pronouns and their use in literature and writing
- Review the correct usage of problematic homophones

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

- Adverbs
- Review of vocabulary from chapters 14-18

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.

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

- Continue to learn new gestures and French vocabulary
- Practice writing sentences in French and learn about sentence structure
- Continue to practice and memorize the play
- 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. For the month of February, students will study the following American Kingdoms:

- The Mayans
- The Marvelous City of Tenochtitlan
- The Incas

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will continue to study decimals. They will focus on:

- Understanding tenths and hundredths
- Comparing decimals
- Rounding decimals
- Fractions and decimals
- Adding and subtracting decimals

Science: This month, students will choose a topic from units studied this term and begin work on an in-class science fair project. Students will:

- Practice the scientific method by developing their own hypothesis and conducting research
- Design and carry out an original experiment
- Share their findings with the class by participating in an in-class science fair and a short oral presentation

Visual Arts: Students will focus on the art of the Mayan and Inca cultures with an emphasis on line, shape, and texture. Projects include:

- Drawing based on artwork from the Mayan calendar
- Creating a low relief texture sculpture from embossing metal

Music: This month, students will continue to learn the basics of recorder and develop their reading of music notation. They will also begin to learn the choral music for their upcoming musical *Malice in the Palace*. 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

Physical Education: After completing the basketball unit, students will begin a unit on badminton. Students will learn:

- Proper grip, serving, overhead clear, drop shots, rallying, and keeping score
- Strategies for singles and doubles play

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

Upcoming Events

February 4 – ACSI Jr. Boys Basketball Tournament – Toronto
February 5 & 19 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome
February 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Lunch Lady Lunch
February 8 – Exordium – Parents Welcome AND Pizza Lunch
February 15 – Walk Through Literature Day
February 20 – In-School Speech Meet
February 21 – Sr. Boys Basketball Tournament - Stouffville
February 22 – Pizza Lunch
February 28 – 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.