

March 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
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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 Gospel of John in preparation for Easter. Students will:

- Read, discuss, copy, and memorize relevant passages from Scripture
- Learn about themes such as the resurrection, Jesus as life and light to the world, and new birth
- Act out portions of John to tell the Easter story
- Connect themes from John to their study of the Old Testament

Literature: Students will begin a novel study on *Pollyanna* by Eleanor H. Porter. Students will continue to read and memorize poems and discuss poetic devices and meaning. This month, students will focus on the following:

- Copy, memorize, and recite poems using techniques effective for oral presentation
- Draw conclusions using evidence from the text
- Describe how a character changes over the course of a story
- Connect and relate prior experiences, insights, and ideas to those of a speaker
- Incorporate multimedia elements effectively into personal projects and presentations
- Research famous sayings and proverbs and share their findings with the class through an art project and short oral presentation

Writing: This month, students will continue to practice narrating short passages and writing sentences from dictation, focusing on proper grammar and structure. Students will also write a three-point paragraph and understand the following:

- How to use a topic sentence
- How to develop a paragraph with examples and details
- How to write a concluding sentence
- How to start a new paragraph by using an indent

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:

- Learn 20 new spelling words each week, and develop more complex sentences using the list words
- Learn the 2-1-1 spelling rule and develop a list of words that apply
- Learn about adjectives and practice improving sentences using a thesaurus to find descriptive words

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

- Where things are
- Growing virtue
- Time for bed

French: This month, students will begin to retell the story *Le chat et la lune* in their own words. Students will:

- Continue to learn new gestures and vocabulary in French

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.

- Continue to memorize their lines for the play *Le chat et la lune*
- Learn how to answer questions in French both orally and in written form
- Work to speak exclusively in French

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:

- Explorers: Columbus, Vespucci, and Magellan
- Canada's First Nations
- Mapping: longitude and latitude, the equator, northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere, north and south poles
- Hudson Bay, St. Lawrence River, Yukon River
- Provinces and their capitals
- Major Canadian cities: Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Vancouver

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will continue to practice timed drills, focusing on multiplication, division, place value, and decimals. Students will learn about angles and measurement with a focus on:

- Understanding and measuring angles
- Turns and right angles
- Perpendicular and parallel line segments
- Horizontal and vertical lines

Science: This month, students will learn about soil and its properties. Topics include:

- How does soil form?
- What are different types of soil like?
- What are soil layers like?
- How do we depend on soil?
- How can we care for soil?

Visual Arts: This month, students will create a pinch pot based on Indigenous pottery. Areas of study include:

- 3-dimensional sculpture
- Colour
- Texture

Music: As we approach spring, it is time to begin preparing for our spring musical *Malice in the Palace*. The Grade 4 class will begin to prepare their choir repertoire for the musical as well as continue to develop proficiency playing recorder. Objectives include:

- Learning *Malice in the Palace* songs
- Singing Canons
- Singing in harmony
- Playing recorder and reading treble clef notation

Physical Education: This month, students will continue with their unit on badminton. Students will learn:

- Proper grip
- Serving, overhead clear, drop shots, rallying
- Keeping score in both doubles and singles play.

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

Upcoming Events

March 4 – Science Centre (JK-4) – Toronto

March 5 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome AND Lunch Lady Lunch

March 8 – Pizza Lunch

March 11-22 – March Break – No School

March 26 – Lunch Lady Lunch

March 29 – Pizza Lunch

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