

April 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

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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 continue to 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. They will continue to read and memorize poems and discuss poetic devices and meaning. Students will:

- 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 three-point paragraphs 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
- Recognizing that each new paragraph is indented
- How to write an opinion, informational, and narrative paragraph

**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 about adjectives and practice improving sentences using a thesaurus to find descriptive words
- Learn spelling rules 5 (I & Y usually say "I" at the end of a syllable) and 7 (abbreviations)

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

- Growing virtue
- Time for bed
- Colours
- Around the place

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

## 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.

- Learn new gestures and vocabulary in French
- Continue to memorize their lines for the play *Le chat et la lune*
- Properly respond to questions 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
- Explorations in the North
- 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 and math facts. This month, they will learn about:

- Perpendicular and parallel line segments
- Squares and rectangles
- Area and perimeter

**Science:** This month, students will complete their study on soil and its properties and begin a new unit on natural resources. Students will explore the following questions and topics:

- How do we depend on soil?
- How can we care for soil?
- Fossil fuels
- Solar energy
- Thermal energy
- Hydropower

**Visual Arts:** Art projects this month focus on Mayan and Inca cultures specifically on the elements of line and texture. Students will:

- Draw a Maya step pyramid using pen and ink techniques
- Work on a group project focusing on ancient Inca textile patterns in which each student will create a square piece that will be 'sewn together' to form a larger work of art

**Music:** In the next month, the Grade 4 class will continue to expand their knowledge of notes on the treble clef staff as well as practice their singing and recorder repertoire. Topics include:

- Spring musical preparation
- Recorder repertoire
- Singing techniques
- Composers in the classical and romantic eras

**Physical Education:** This month, students will complete their badminton unit focusing on:

- Learning rules for keeping score in singles and doubles play
- Making their own line calls
- Showing good sportsmanship

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

## Upcoming Events

- April 2, 16 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome
- April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Lunch Lady Lunch
- April 5 – Lunch Lady Lunch Event
- April 8 – Gr. 7 Immunization Clinic AND House Spelling Bee Competition
- April 9 – Exordium – Parents Welcome
- April 12, 26 – Pizza Lunch
- April 15 – House Spelling Bee Competition
- April 18 – Women's Event and Open House
- April 19 & 22 – Good Friday & Easter Monday – No School
- April 29 – ACSI Badminton Tournament (Gr. 7/8) – Stouffville
- April 30 – Shaw Festival – Gr. 2-6, 9

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