

May 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 study the Israelites' journey settling the Promised Land. Topics include:

- Crossing the Jordan
- At Gilgal
- Preparing for war
- Victory at Jericho
- Defeat and victory at Ai

Literature: Students will complete 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:

- Identify the use of literary devices such as alliteration, onomatopoeia, and personification, and practice using them to write original poems
- Read short selections from Greek mythology and *Gulliver's Travels*
- Read selections on famous historical figures such as Wilbur and Orville Wright and Charles Lindbergh

Writing: This month, students will learn how to write a short report for both history and literature. Students will use their knowledge of paragraph writing to:

- Gather information from basic print sources (such as a children's encyclopedia)
- Write a short report presenting the information in his or her own words
- Use stylistic elements to improve writing such as strong adjectives, sentence combining, and sentence variety

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 twenty new spelling words each week and develop more complex sentences using the list words by writing from dictations and employing proper grammatical conventions
- Learn about adverbs and conjunctions, focusing on adverbs that tell when, how often, where, and how
- Review spelling rules learned this year and practice using them with new vocabulary words

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

- Colours
- A time for everything
- Around the palace
- Adjectives
- Review of past vocabulary

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 finish the play “Le chat et la lune” and present it in class. Students will:

- Work towards speaking exclusively in French
- Memorize their lines for “Le chat et la lune”
- Work on writing and comprehension activities
- Start a new unit focusing on school vocabulary
- Learn how to agree simple adjectives and nouns

Mathematics: In mathematics, students will continue to practice timed drills and math facts. This month, they will learn about:

- Area of a rectangle
- Rectangles and squares
- Composite figures
- Using formulas for area and perimeter

Science: This month, students begin a study of natural resources with a focus on water. Students will explore the following questions and topics:

- How do we use water, and where can we find water?
- What are the different kinds of water?
- What are the different forms of water?
- What is the water cycle?
- Where does water come from?
- How can we take care of water?

Visual Arts: Students will paint a landscape scene inspired by the Group of Seven member Franklin Carmichael. They will also create a pinch pot based on Indigenous pottery and then paint their pottery with ceramic glazes. Classes will focus on:

- Painting and colour mixing
- 3-dimensional sculpture
- Colour and texture

Music: Grade 4 students are busy preparing for the spring musical. As they prepare for their performance, students will continue to develop musical skills in the following areas:

- Singing in tune with good tone quality
- Singing in unison and 2-part harmony
- Observing dynamics, articulation, proper enunciation, and vowel control
- Following the conductor and working as an ensemble

Physical Education: In physical education this month, students will begin preparing for the track and field meet by training and practicing for their various events. In addition, we will discuss different energy systems (aerobic vs. anaerobic) used in these events. Students will train using the proper techniques for the following types of events:

- Throwing events
- Jumping events
- Running events

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

Upcoming Events

May 2 – Math Olympics – Mississauga Christian Academy
May 3 – Exordium – Parents Welcome
May 7 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome
May 7, 14, 21, 28 – Lunch Lady Lunch
May 10 – Parent Morning AND Pizza Lunch
May 20 – Victoria Day – No School
May 21 – Battle of the Books (Gr. 4-8) – Innova
May 24 – Pizza Lunch
May 28 – Track and Field (Gr. 7/8) – Centennial Stadium
May 29-31 – Camping Trip (Gr. 9)
May 30 – Track and Field (Gr. 4-6) – Centennial Stadium AND Grad Night (Gr. 7/8)

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