

February 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



At Innova

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. Students will begin to understand history as God's unfolding plan of redemption and appreciate that they are a part of this story. In the month of February, grade 1 students will continue the memorization of John 15. Topics covered this month include:

- The Second Intermediate Period in Egypt
- The Code of Hammurabi
- Hyksos invasion of Egypt
- Early New Kingdom in Egypt

Literature and Vocabulary: Grade 1 students will build and refine oral reading fluency and comprehension skills. During the month of February, students will begin a novel study on *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain*, by Alice Dagleish. While studying this novel, students will:

- Use context clues to determine the meaning of a word or phrase in a text read aloud
- Identify explicit details from a passage and provide answers to "who", "what", "where", "when", "why", and "how" questions about a text
- Use implicit information to make inferences about the motives or behaviors of characters
- Draw connections between and among various pieces of information in a text

Spelling and 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:

- Write the review phonograms and words from teacher dictation
- Read all 70 phonograms from flashcards
- Generate words and compound words using phonograms and spelling words
- Show an understanding of contractions
- Organize spelling words in ABC order
- Write a sentence using an adjective, noun, and verb from a selected list

Writing: This month, students will participate in choral reading and reciting. They will learn to retell narrative stories from memory and practice retelling content from key-word outlines. 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 using basic parts of speech
- Identify story elements

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

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.

month, students will finish a unit on "Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20" before starting a new unit entitled "Picture Graphs and Bar Graphs". Topics and learning strategies include:

- Using different strategies to add 1- and 2-digit numbers
- Subtracting a 1-digit number from a 2-digit number with and without re-grouping
- Solving real-world problems
- Creating simple picture graphs
- Using a tally chart and bar graphs

Science: This month, students will investigate animals and their habitats. Through various hands on activities, students will:

- Explore different habitats and how they are unique to different animals
- Discuss the different diets of animals
- Learn about fossils
- Discover the meaning and significance of the word "extinct" in relationship to animals and their habitats

Latin: In Latin this month, grade 1 students will continue to learn new vocabulary words and practice them in informal conversation, songs, and games. Topics covered include:

- Classroom commands
- Manners

Visual Arts: This month, students will examine artifacts and tools that rulers in Egypt, India, and Mesopotamia used to write and sign their names: Students will:

- Finish painting pinch pots
- Create a personalized seal
- Mix primary colours to create secondary colours

Music: During the month of February, students will work on becoming more familiar with the Orff instruments and will also continue practicing singing with solfege, rhythm, and directional note reading. More specific goals will include:

- Percussion patterns on the Orff instruments
- Solfege composition and dictation
- Tone quality in singing
- Percussion instruments
- Whole rest
- J. S. Bach

Physical Education: Using bean bags, students will play a variety of games to help develop skills that are used in a variety of sports. In a unit on springing and jumping, students will also learn that balance is an essential part of physical fitness and the ability to transfer weight from one part of the body to another develops balance, strength, and agility. Students will:

- Recognize hand eye coordination and when it is being used
- Distinguish between tossing and throwing as they practice using targets
- Transfer weight from one foot to the other
- Demonstrate and practice jumping and springing stunts through games and activities

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

Upcoming Events

- February 3 – ACSI JR Boys' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Toronto
- February 5 – ACSI JR Girls' Basketball Tournament (Gr. 4-6) – Scarborough
- February 7 – Exordium and Literature Day – North Campus
- February 10 – Parent Night (All Parents) – South Campus
- February 14 – PD Day – No School for Students
- February 17 – Family Day – No School
- February 20 – In-School Speech Meet
- February 27 – 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.