

March 2020

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 4

Mr. Jason Namba

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Mr. Namba holds a Master's Degree in Education from Torch Trinity Graduate University, a Bachelor's Degree in History from Biola University, an ACSI teaching certificate, and TESOL certification. He has worked overseas in South Korea as a grammar stage teacher for the Seoul International Christian Academy and has also served as their Lower Grammar Stage Academic Director. His love for classical education is rooted in its deep appreciation for history and its commitment to truth, beauty, and goodness. When Jason is not teaching, he can be found reading, playing board games, cooking, and spending time with his son and wife.



Mr. Jason Namba
Teacher

Grade 3 and
Grade 4



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 narratives from the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. Students will participate in:

- Reading daily devotionals
- Reading, writing, and memorizing passages from Scripture
- Discussing the key points of the narratives read in class
- Completing activities and projects to demonstrate comprehension of the major ideas of 1 and 2 Samuel

History: This year, Grade 4 students will explore the Middle Ages with a focus on the Western Empires. Topics covered this month include:

- The Crusades
- Richard the Lionheart
- Robin Hood

Literature: Students will begin their study of *C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. They will continue to read various poems and discuss poetic devices and meaning. Students will:

- Be exposed to and learn to appreciate great literature from across the ages
- Deepen their vocabulary and sharpen their writing ability by reading excellent examples of superior writing
- Recognize the author's or poet's purpose
- Participate in group discussion and compose well written responses
- Apply biblical principles and explore lessons learned from a text

Writing: Students learn to compose more complex sentences as they practice writing using proper formatting and grammar. This month, students will summarize non-fiction pieces by tying together important or interesting facts with a topic and clincher sentence. Students will:

- Listen to and read interesting biographies, factual pieces, and other non-fiction sources
- Practice summarizing and retelling what they have heard
- Use a topic sentence and a clincher sentence to tie together facts
- Add dress-ups to their writing to improve quality and depth

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 continue to:

- Write creative sentences using proper grammar and sentence structure
- Learn rules related to English spelling
- Practice phonogram sounds

Mathematics: This month, students will complete their study of decimals and review fractions. Students will practice using strategies to solve real-world problems. Topics include:

- Fraction review
- How are decimals and fractions related?
- Adding and subtracting decimals
- Decimal review

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.

Science: Students will discover more about God's creation and their relationship to it by studying forces and electricity. Students will participate in labs to discover how forces work. They will practice creating experiments by asking questions related to forces and energy, determining hypothesis, and recording data. Topics include:

- Heat energy
- Sound energy
- Electrical energy
- Circuits

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

- Celebrations
- Royalty
- Military matters

French: This month, students will continue to familiarize themselves with a new play entitled *Boucles Violettes*. Students will:

- Learn new vocabulary and practice using vocabulary in conversation
- Continue to answer questions in writing about *La Poule Maboule*
- Practice saying the play *Boucles Violettes*

Visual Arts: This month, students will start their tempera painting on canvas inspired by a Medieval art landscape scene. Specific attention will be placed on the composition of their painting, with a specific focus on the following elements of design:

- Line
- Shape/form
- Colour
- Space

Music: As we approach spring, it is time to begin preparing for the spring concert. The grade 4 class will begin preparing Orff and choir repertoire as well as continue their knowledge and practice on the recorders. Areas covered will include:

- Orff repertoire
- Major and minor solfege
- Recorder and treble clef notation
- Simple two-part singing

Physical Education: Students will begin a short unit on basketball, applying the skills they learned to games. Students will:

- Learn the rules of basketball
- Practice passing, shooting, and dribbling
- Understand the roles of defense and offence in a game situation
- Play various modified games to develop specific skills

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

Upcoming Events

March 2 – ACSI Public Speaking Festival - Mississauga

March 2-6 – House Basketball Intramurals (Gr. 5-10) – South Campus

March 4 – Royal Ontario Museum (Gr. 3/4 and 9/10)

March 9-20 – March Break – No School

March 24 – Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Gr. 5-10) – Roy Thomson Hall

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