

January 2021

# The Month Ahead At Innova

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:** Students continue to enjoy their journey through Fairie Gold. This month, they will read the stories, The Skipping Shoes, The Gold Bearded Man, and The Greedy Shepherd. Students will:

- Explore the five w's of a story (who, what, when, where, why)
- Learn to apply the biblical principles discovered in each story
- Discuss allegories and their significance in God's Word
- Learn about the time that the Israelites spent in the wilderness

**Literature:** Students will conclude their reading and discussion of Detectives in Togas and begin a second unit on poetry from the Classics for Young Readers series. Literature class is conducted through the following activities:

- Vocabulary work
- Comprehension work
- Narration
- Discussion

**Writing:** Students will expand their writing ability by imitating masterful compositions through the IEW program. This month, students will work on:

- Choosing important and interesting facts from a non-fiction reference source and taking notes
- Writing from notes taken
- Using a topic sentence and clincher sentence to bookend a summary
- Adding dress-ups to make compositions more interesting

**Spelling:** Each month, students will practice memorizing phonograms and spelling rules as well as learn fifteen new words each week. Students will:

- Develop greater awareness of how the English language is structured
- Apply their skills to writing across the curriculum
- Learn and practice spelling rules

**Grammar:** Students will learn the rules of English grammar and apply them in their writing. This month, students will practice:

- Past and future tense verbs
- Subject-verb agreement
- Combining Sentences

**Latin:** Students will practice new vocabulary through gestures and classroom activities. Vocabulary words will center around the following topics:

- Celebrations
- Royalty
- Military matters

Mr. Namba holds a Master's Degree in Education, a Bachelor's Degree in History, an ACSI teaching certificate, and TESOL certification. He has worked overseas as a grammar stage teacher and Lower Grammar Stage Academic Director for the Seoul International Christian Academy. 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 wife and two sons.



Mr. Jason Namba  
Teaching Interim  
Vice Principal

Grade 3 and  
Grade 4

Kayleigh completed her Bachelor's Degree with specialties in Studio Art and Biology at the University of Guelph, and a Bachelors of Education at Brock University.

Kayleigh's classroom experience includes teaching Core French in Saskatchewan to grades 4 to 12. She most recently worked as a visual arts teacher for elementary students in a French Immersion school while living in Oakville.

Kayleigh serves in her church and loves reading, making art, photography, baking, and spending time with her husband and son.



Mrs. Kayleigh Shin  
Teacher

Grade 3 and  
Grade 4

## 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:** Students will expand their understanding of articles by learning about the possessive articles mon, ma, ton, and ta. Students will:

- Review vocabulary and participate in classroom conversations
- Answer questions in writing about the play *Le chat et la lune*
- Practice saying the play with a partner

**History:** Students will begin learning about the Roman empire. Topics include:

- The story of Romulus and Remus
- The power of Rome
- The Roman builders

**Mathematics:** Students will conclude their study of data and probability and begin a unit on fractions and mixed numbers. Specifically, students will focus on the following:

- Finding the mean, median, mode, and range of a data set
- Reading stem and leaf plots
- Probable outcomes
- Probability as a fraction
- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Mixed numbers and improper fractions
- Fractions of a set

**Science:** In January, students will explore insects and invertebrates. Topics of study include:

- The classification of animals
- The habitats of insects
- The habitats of invertebrates

**Visual Arts:** Students will examine the realism of Roman art and make their own realistic drawings of people. Areas of study include:

- Learning how to draw the human figure
- Learning how to draw humans in motion
- Learning about the proportions of the human form

**Music:** In the new year, the grade 4 class will reinforce their knowledge of rhythm, learn about new composers and their music, and continue to practice ensemble playing. Topics include:

- Dynamic markings
- Musical staff and rhythm divisions
- Review of verse and refrain
- Composer: Beethoven
- Active listening
- Da capo

**Physical Education:** Students will utilize the basic skills they have learned in socially distanced basketball games. Students will:

- Engage in basketball drills to practice passing, dribbling, and shooting
- Grow in their teamwork and communication through socially distanced basketball activities
- Learn and play various basketball games

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

## Upcoming Events

January 4 – Online Training/Orientation and Curriculum Pick-Up  
January 5-8 – Classes Resume Online After Christmas Break  
January 11 – Elementary Classes Resume In-Person  
January 22 – Elementary Term 1 Ends – Reports sent home  
January 25-28 – High School Evaluation Days  
January 28-29 – Parent Teacher Interviews (mandatory)  
January 29 – P.D. Day – No school for students

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