

February 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, students will read the stories, *Justnowland*, *Flora's Birthday Party*, and *The Gate of the Giant Scissors*. Students will:

- Explore the theme of each story and learn how to apply the lessons to their lives
- Learn the power of poetry and participate in writing a poem to communicate a powerful point
- Study the exodus and the journey of the Israelites to Mount Sinai

Literature: Students will continue their reading and discussion of *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Literature class is conducted through the following activities:

- Read aloud, partner reading, choral reading
- 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:

- Asking questions about an interesting picture set to generate ideas for writing
- Creating notes from the ideas generated
- Writing from notes taken
- Adding dress-ups to make compositions more interesting
- Practicing writing conventions for multi-paragraph compositions

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: In February, students will learn the rules of English grammar and apply them in their writing. This month, students will practice using:

- Linking verbs
- Helping verbs
- State of being verbs

Latin: In Latin, students will practice new vocabulary through gestures and classroom activities. Vocabulary words will center around the following topics:

- Celebrations
- Royalty
- Military matters
- Verbs and adverbs

French: Students will learn about sentence structure and practice writing sentences of their own in French. Students will:

- Review vocabulary and participate in classroom conversation
- Read and write sentences using French vocabulary
- Practice reading the play in small groups

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.

History: As students study world history chronologically, they learn about God's unfolding plan of redemption. This year, grade 3 students are studying the history, geography, and culture of the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, India, the Americas, and Far Eastern Empires. During the month of February, students will study the wars of Rome and then begin learning about the history of cultures in India. Areas of study include:

- The Punic Wars
- Life on the Ganges River
- The castes of Ancient India

Mathematics: Students will conclude their study of fractions and begin a unit on decimals. Topics of study will include:

- Finding fractions of a set
- Identifying decimals to the thousandth place
- Understanding place value and rounding decimals
- Adding and subtracting decimals

Science: Science is observing and describing God's creation. God's attributes, power, and divine nature can be clearly seen in what has been made (Romans 1:20). This year, students will have the joy of studying biology. Students engage in hands on activities and experiments as they discover the wonders of God's creation. During the month of February, students will learn about a variety of insects and invertebrates. Students will:

- Create a bug collection
- Study different types of insects
- Examine different types of invertebrates

Visual Arts: The grade 4 class will continue to improve their drawing skills as well as focus their studies on animals and perspective. Students will learn the following:

- How to draw an animal
- How to draw in one-point perspective
- How to draw still life

Music: This month, the grade 4 class will continue to work on their singing techniques. Students will also focus on the following:

- Sight singing
- Rhythm reading
- Composition
- Theme and Variations
- Composer: Beethoven
- Active listening
- Da capo

Physical Education (If Learning Virtually): Students will continue to learn juggling to improve their hand eye coordination while exercising at home. They will:

- Practice throwing, tracking, and catching multiple objects
- Practice left hand and right hand coordination
- Practice hand-eye coordination and use of peripheral vision to track moving objects

Physical Education (If Learning in-Person): Students will utilize the basic skills they have learned in physically distanced basketball games. Students will:

- Engage in basketball drills to practice passing, dribbling, and shooting
- Grow in their teamwork and communication through physically 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

February 1 – High School Semester 2 Begins

February 5 – Re-Application Early Bird Deadline

February 12 – PD Day – No School

February 15 – Family Day – No School

February 16 – Post-Secondary Application Process & Planning Session –
Online Via Zoom

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