

April 2021

The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 4

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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 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 will continue to study Faerie Gold, discussing virtues, life lessons, and biblical application to our lives. They will also explore the Exodus and the Israelites' journey and time in the wilderness. This month, students will:

- Learn about the ten commandments and God's covenant with Israel
- Study the story *The Conceited Apple-Branch* by Hans Christian Andersen, looking at the difference between being confident and conceited
- Read the story *The Castle* by George MacDonald and discover the importance of developing godly characters and encouraging each other

Literature: Students will continue reading an abridged version of the King Arthur legend along with other short story selections from *K12 Classics for Young Readers*. Literature class is conducted through the following activities:

- Read aloud, partner reading, choral reading
- Vocabulary, comprehension, and inference work
- Narration, discussion, and application

Writing: Students will expand their writing ability by imitating masterful compositions through the IEW program. This month, students will continue to learn about creative writing through:

- Generating a list of possible writing ideas
- Identifying topics within these writing ideas
- Writing in 5-paragraph essay format
- 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: Students will learn the rules of English grammar and apply them in their writing. This month, students will practice identifying and using:

- Helping verbs
- Irregular verbs

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

- Prepositions
- Virtues

French: During the month of April, students will learn new vocabulary as well as practice saying and writing verbs. Students will:

- Practice writing sentences using learned 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.

- Answer questions about the play orally and in writing
- Begin memorizing the play *Le chat et la lune*

History: As students study world history chronologically, they learn about God's unfolding plan of redemption. This year, grade 4 students are studying the history, geography, and culture of the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, India, the Americas, and Far Eastern Empires. This month, students will return to Ancient Rome and examine the life of Julius Caesar. Topics include:

- The rise of Julius Caesar
- The Consuls of Rome
- Caesar and the Senate

Mathematics: Students will continue their study of geometry examining the mathematical properties of squares and rectangles and calculating perimeter and area of composite shapes. Topics of study will include:

- Reviewing angles and lines
- Line and angle properties of squares and rectangles
- Calculating perimeter and area
- Understanding composite shapes

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 have the joy of studying biology. Students engage in hands on activities and experiments as they discover the wonders of God's creation. This month, students will begin to learn about the world of vertebrate animals. Topics include:

- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals

Visual Arts: In art, students will continue to explore the elements of design and develop their artistic skills. Students will learn about the process and skills necessary to emboss metal. Students will:

- Create their own embossed metal design
- Learn about the process, skills, and materials required for embossing metal
- Begin a whole class project where students create a large piece of art as a class

Music: In April, the grade 4 class will continue to expand their knowledge of notes on the treble clef staff as well as practice their spring concert repertoire. Specifically, they will cover:

- Orff ensemble
- Composition
- Folk dance
- Composers in the Classical and Romantic Era

Physical Education: During physical education classes, students develop agility, flexibility, endurance, and gross motor skills as well as practice good sportsmanship. Students will engage in physically distanced badminton practice outdoors that encourage and build the following skills:

- Teamwork and communication
- Sportsmanship
- Hand-eye coordination
- Physical fitness

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

Upcoming Events

- April 1 – High School Parent Teacher Interviews
- April 2 – Good Friday – No school
- April 5-16 – Spring Break – No school
- April 7 – Blakey Art Competition Deadline – Gr. 9-11
- April 19 – Students Return to School from Spring Break
- April 19 – Apologetic Series for Parents
- April 28 – CLT10 (Classic Learning Test) – Gr. 9/10

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