

April 2021

# 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 5

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Mrs. Maja Younan  
myounan@innovaacademy.ca



Grade 5 students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to make meaningful connections and critically analyze ideas. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and lead students to deepen their understanding of God's purpose for His creation and their role in His redemptive plan.

**Christian Education:** Students will continue to be challenged to grow in their faith by studying and memorizing Scripture and learning about Christians from history. This month, students will:

- Memorize Ephesians 4:25-28, adding weekly journal entries to record their reflections on each part of the passage
- Read the biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Study Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5 in depth
- Explore the prayers of George Mueller, and the bravery and faith of Harriet Tubman

**Literature:** Students will be reading an exciting novel of historical fiction, *I, Juan de Pareja* by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino. This novel complements our study of the great empires of the 1600s and the slave culture that existed during this period of history. They will also participate in a short unit on debating. Students will:

- Act out scenes from the novel to better understand the characters and themes
- Relate their study to what the Bible says about human dignity, worth, and love for your neighbour
- Answer questions about themes and character development from their novel study, using quotes and facts from the novel to support answers
- Memorize 2 new poems - "The Swing" and "Persevere"
- Participate in a formal debate by learning how to research a topic and engage in discussion with an opposing viewpoint

**Writing:** Students will continue to build on skills learned in the *IEW Structure and Style* program. This month, students will:

- Learn the structure of a formal literary critique
- Learn how to write a well-developed paragraph from a prompt based on the literature study

**Spelling:** Using the *Spell to Write and Read* program, students develop spelling skills through word analysis and understanding and applying spelling rules to daily writing across the curriculum. This month, students will:

- Continue to learn 15 new spelling words per week while practicing identifying phonograms and spelling rules
- Write new words in sentences, using clausal sentence openers

**Grammar:** Grammar study develops students' awareness and understanding of how the English language is structured. As students work through the grammar program, they apply their knowledge to writing in all subject areas. This month's grammar study focuses on:

- The proper use of *your* and *you're*
- Reviewing key concepts learned this past year and developing confidence in correcting errors and identifying parts of speech

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will strengthen their vocabulary through the study of Latin and Greek vocabulary. Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will:

- Learn words with the roots related to numbers, *tri*, *quad/quar*, *penta/quint*
- Review previously learned vocabulary
- Practice using new words in oral conversation

## Grade 5 – The Logic Stage

The strong knowledge base established in the grammar school provides a solid foundation as students enter the logic school. As perspective widens, students start to make meaningful connections across the curriculum. Students show more independence in their learning and establish systems in self-regulation and personal study skills. Shaping students' habits of heart, mind, and soul is a key focus as students deepen their understanding of God's purpose for his creation and their role in his redemptive plan. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to critically analyze ideas and speak to issues in light of God's purposes.

**French:** In French, students will practice using irregular verbs in sentence writing. Students will:

- Review vocabulary from the year and practice speaking during class time
- Read short stories and answer questions about the content
- Begin memorizing the play

**History and Geography:** This year, history study focuses on people, culture, and events around the world from 1450 to 1666. This month, students will study:

- King James I and the Jamestown colony
- Pocahontas
- Warlords of Japan

**Mathematics:** Students will continue to build on the solid foundation of *Math in Focus*. Weekly timed drills using *Calculadder* and math fact quizzes will be used to develop speed and accuracy. Students will also spend some time reviewing key concepts from past study on fractions. This month, students will learn about:

- Multiplying and dividing decimals
- Percent

**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) and immersing students in a study of science will help them to see this even more. This year, students will have the joy of participating in hands on activities and experiments each week as they learn about physics. Students will:

- Learn about the solar system and how the Copernican model along with Galileo's discoveries changed the way people understood astronomy
- Define the words *light years*, *nebulae*, *dwarf stars*, *giant stars*, *constellations*, *red giant stars*, *supergiant stars*, and *black hole*
- Create a telescope as a part of an experiment

**Visual Arts:** In April, students will learn about the process and develop skills 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:** During the month of April, the grade 5 class will continue to expand their knowledge of ukulele, the treble clef staff, and ensemble playing as well as practice their spring concert repertoire. Topics include:

- F scale on ukulele
- Eras of western classical music
- Composition
- Chording on the ukulele
- Theory

**Physical Education:** Through exposure to a wide variety of activities, students improve their physical fitness and understand the importance of achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle while developing good sportsmanship. This month, students will engage in outdoor activities such as:

- Running to build stamina
- Throwing and catching footballs and baseballs

*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.