



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela

This Advent season we will reflect on this quote and the place of education in empowering young people both locally and globally.

a) Education is the second priority area of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#), released in June 2015. In the report, the TRC calls on Canada to provide culturally based education for First Nations children, and to educate all Canadians about Aboriginal peoples to prepare them for the important work of reconciliation. What is our role and how can we support our First Nations' neighbours?

b) Obiageli (Oby) and Ofor Aligwekwe, members of the Inca community, are the founders of an NGO in Nigeria that assists and supports young people as they pursue a thorough and complete education. Oby and Ofor will share their stories and raise awareness so we can make informed decisions about how we might also support these young students.

Advent 1- “Awake”

Education in Canada is considered a fundamental Human Right and is considered an inherent right negotiated in the treaties between First Nations and the Crown. The policy of the Canadian government in the early 1900s, however, was to assimilate First Nations children into white society through the repressive residential schools. Over the past decades, First Nations have fought for the recognition of their treaty right to education and to control the education of their children. It was not until 1973 that the federal government accepted this principle. -schools on reserve are held to the same standards and delivery expectations as schools off reserve. However, schools on reserves are underfunded by approx. \$2,000-\$3,000 per child. And unlike provincial schools, the federal government provides: \$0 for libraries; \$0 for computers, software and teacher training; \$0 for extracurricular activities; \$0 for 2nd and 3rd level services.

Many First Nation schools in Canada are unsafe and uncomfortable. Health concerns in First Nation schools include: overcrowding, extreme mold, high carbon dioxide levels, sewage fumes in schools, students suffering from cold and frost bite

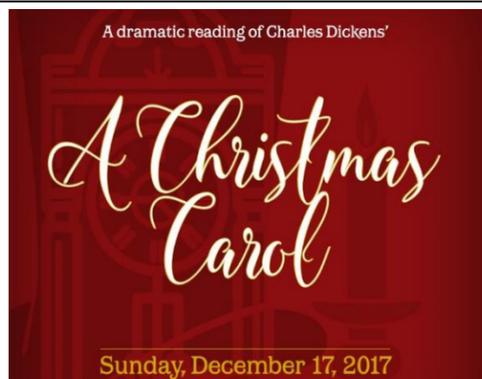
A campaign was started by elementary school student Shannen Koostachin and her classmates for safe and comfy schools and culturally based education for First Nations children. Shannen was from the Attawapiskat First Nation in Ontario and the school in her community was closed because of a diesel fuel spill that contaminated the school grounds.

Shannen's Dream

In 2010, Shannen tragically died in a car accident on her way home from school off reserve, but her dream lives on in the voices of children and youth speaking out for safe and comfy schools, and culturally based education in First Nations education. The school was left closed for over 10 years and students were forced to learn in portables with no heat in the winter, not enough school supplies like books and computers. Shannen recognized that it was not right that other Canadian children had safe and comfy schools when she and the children in her community did not. She acted and inspired thousands of children to join her in a letter writing campaign to the government to ensure safe and comfy schools, and a proper education for all First Nations children and youth in Canada.

For more on Shannen's story and dream, go to www.shannensdream.ca

This Week at Inca



Dickens' A Christmas Carol Dramatic Reading Performance

Sunday, December 17 at 7: 30pm

Please mark your calendars and make sure to attend an evening that will bring joy and delight to all. This special event will feature some of your favourite CBC personalities:

Jeff Douglas from "As It Happens" ♦ Jill Dempsey from "Metro Morning"
Kas Roussy, "National CBC reporter" ♦ Matt Llewellyn from "Here and Now"
Nora Young from "Spark" and featuring Marnie Kersten

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. They can be purchased [online here](#), or at Lighthouse (Rebecca and Bronte Road)



Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, December 10th

Our next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for next Sunday December 10, following the 10am service. Please send Jim Stevens new agenda items you would like to discuss during the meeting, and let him know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend.

For those responsible for preparing and submitting reports for the meeting, it must be submitted to Jim by email no later than 6PM on Friday, December 8. This meeting will be potluck in terms of lunch, so bring whatever you can that we can enjoy together.



Don't forget! Please pick up all your Tupperware, tins, boxes and bake pans left over from the Christmas Market as soon as possible! If you are returning a bake sale plate or tin, please label it for Michele.



Help Decorate the Blue Spruce

Our blue spruce tree located outside the church on the parking lot side, is transformed in December with lights and decorations into our memory tree. If you'd like, please add a decoration in memory of a loved one to our tree. Leslie Hickey will remove the decorations after Christmas and save them for the following year.



Holiday Food Drive

For the next few weeks, we'll be holding a food drive to support local food banks. They will gratefully accept your donations of non-perishable foods and necessities. Here is a sample of some of the items they like to receive:

Powdered Laundry Soap ♦ Instant Coffee ♦ Cereal(Hot/Cold) ♦ Pancake Mix/Syrup
Cookies/Crackers ♦ Cake Mixes/Icing ♦ Side Dishes (Rice, Pasta, Potato) ♦ Dry Soup
Diapers Size #4, #5 and #6



Christmas Flowers

Please look for the Christmas flowers envelopes at the greeter's table. The money donated will go towards purchasing flowers for our Christmas services.

Loved ones will be remembered at these service.



Grab Your Work Gloves and Help with Our Landscaping!

Work is underway on our outdoors – have you seen the progress? Davey Tree has begun removing the Buckthorn. We need volunteers who could come out and

Help us cut down and remove the low growth
Help spread the piles of mulch that will be delivered

We are looking into renting some equipment to make this easy. Please email David Jenkins at oakvillejenkins@gmail.com if you are able to help. We would like to get a good push on this before the snow flies! Thank you



Contemplative Fire – Returns in January

Contemplative Fire is space and time to reflect, meditate, review, and recharge your emotional, spiritual and physical life. We provide a short time of hospitality starting at 8pm then we gather together as a contemplative and intentional community. We seek to enable reflection and meditation for all, from the novice to the experienced person.



Coffee and Chocolate in time for Christmas

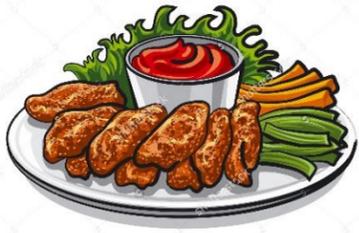
We'll be taking one more round of coffee and chocolate orders so you can share some special goodies at Christmas. CJ will be at worship this week with printed order forms or [you can download one here](#).

Please bring your completed forms, along with your payment and return to CJ after the 10:00 worship this Sunday, December 3.



Incarnation Choir Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:15

If you are interested in sharing your voice, please join us at one of our Wednesday rehearsals, or speak to Charlene after a 10:00 service.



Wing and a Prayer – December tbd

We meet at 6:30pm at Monaghan's. Cost: \$25 per person including food and drink. RSVP Winkie Macdougall. Everyone is welcome!

Community News



R4R donation drive!

There were unsold purses and scarves from the Christmas Market.

The R4R are going to fill them with items such as socks, gloves, toiletries, snacks, sanitary items, or fast food vouchers and then distribute to the homeless and given to women's shelters. Some items may also be given to group members or youth in similar situations as needed.

Do you have any purses or small toiletry items you can donate?

This & That



Looking to Volunteer?

We have lots of way you can get involved. Positions include: altar prep, greeters, readers, hosts and coffee preparation. **Youth** can gain some volunteer high school hours. Training will be provided. Contact Julia Lockhart if you are interested in helping out. Don't forget to mark changes to the schedule on the master copy in the office.



Milk Bag Collection

We're still collecting Milk bags for the kids at Ellengale Public School



Our recycling efforts! New procedures

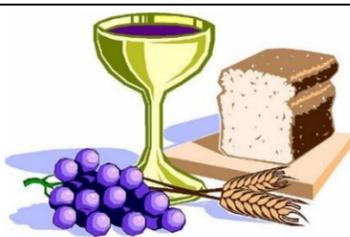
Thank you to all our hard-working volunteers who prepare the coffee and help with the set-up and clean-up of our premises. The daycare has been testing a new green bin routine with much success. We have almost completely eliminated critter attacks!

- Start a new **SMALL** green bin for each service or event. Before leaving, tie off the bag and move the **SMALL** green bin waste to the shed and deposit into the **LARGE** green bin. This will eliminate any critter attacks. No green bins are to be left in the kitchen or out the back door after each event. If you don't know where the key to the shed is located, please ask a Warden or office staff.
- Green bin liners are located in one of the 3 stacked multi-coloured baskets in the kitchen on the counter by the small sink
- All recycling must be emptied after each coffee hour or event. The large blue recycling bins are located at the back door. Please dump all recycling into the larger bins before leaving the church.



Changes to Order of Service or Bulletin News - Any changes need to be sent to the office by Tuesday, noon. office@incarnationchurch.ca

Nametags let people know who you are and make it helpful for people to put names to faces, especially for newcomers



Receiving Communion

All people at Incarnation are invited to receive the bread and wine at communion. The bread is received from the priest who stands between the servers who offer wine from the common cup; choose whatever side is free. You may choose to receive from an individual wine cups available to the left of the altar. Take one, consume the wine and replace the empty cup in the same spot. We hope this provides an inclusive approach to communion where all are welcome.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	December 3	December 10
Bread Making	J. Lockhart	A. Moniuk
Altar Prep	Bird/Smith	W. Macdougall
Coffee	P. Moffat	A. Turner-Sommer
Coffee	J. Smith	J. Bowden
Host	L. Bird	S. Sinclair
Reader 1	A. MacNaughton	J. Lockhart
Gospel	P. Moffat	D. Bold
Prayers	S. Curran	J. Bowden
Server 1	L. Hickey	S. Williams
Server 2	D. Bold	A. Turner-Sommer
Wine Cups	N. Deluca	B. Abrams
Counting	J. Raitt	A. Macdougall

Please Note: Thanks to all of you who update the master copy in the office – very helpful for me!