

REFLECTIONS

SPRING 2018-2019

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS



'BEE' KIND TO OUR EARTH AND TO OUR COMMUNITY

Rockway's "Compass" priority of the Strategic Plan calls for us to move toward student focus on philanthropy and good works. In keeping with this, on Monday, May 6, rain or shine, our entire school, along with volunteers from Presenting Partner, Kindred Credit Union, will fan out to sixteen local organizations during Envirathon Servathon 2019.

From helping neighbours in need to caring for our earth, Rockway and Kindred will be serving our community one good deed at a time. Kindred volunteers include several Rockway Alumni like Ben Janzen ('97). Pictured above (third from left), Ben also volunteered last year, supporting and inspiring future Alumni.

In lieu of collecting pledges, students are giving 'toonies for bees,' to purchase bee-friendly native species for Rockway's campus.

You too, can BEE part of Envirathon Servathon by giving online at rockway.ca. Thanks to Kindred, 100% of your donations will help revitalize Rockway's outdoor learning spaces.



What's Inside?

- The Arts at Rockway: PAGE 2
- Students Learning in Community: PAGE 3
- Alumni News: PAGE 4-5
- Going Beyond Day: PAGE 7
- See You Soon!: BACK PAGE





FOUR PILLARS GUIDE OUR WAY

When you next visit the school, take time to notice a recent art installation; the visual representation of Rockway's four pillars in the north hallway. At Rockway, "with grace we will walk with students as they practice becoming **responsible, globally-minded, compassionate and reflective learners.**"

As you pass through the hallway, each column displays one of these pillars. This mixed media, site specific installation, *pillars* (2018), was conceived by student, Ethan Troupe, in collaboration with fellow students: Annalee Bender, Sydney Chiang, Jelene Fletcher, Heather Frey, and Charlie McNenly. Grace Kim (pictured left) and Visual Arts Department Head, Karen Scott Booth (right) assisted Ethan (centre) with technical support and installation.

'1984' CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE US

In March, a full-house witnessed the final performance of Rockway's Senior Drama, '1984', with Naomi Wiebe as Comrade Julia (seen right). At times, it was challenging to watch for its Orwellian themes and human suffering, but all, onstage and off-stage, agreed it was an important, thought-provoking work. Students tackled the mature subject matter with sensitivity and a keen interest, as reflected by the cast Q&A after each performance. Director, Alan Sapp's innovative interpretation included the introduction of social media Big Brother — this included the use of the biggest video screen todate in a Rockway drama. **Stay tuned for Rockway's Grade 7/8 drama, 'A Midsummer's Night Dream... or the Night they Missed the Forest for the Trees,' May 2 & 3 2019, 7:30 p.m. at Rockway. Tickets: rockway.ca**



FANNING THE FLAME

This work by students: Jonathan Cressman, Maya Morton Ninomya, Leah Schapansky, depicts this year's chapel theme, *Fanning the Flame*. The theme was developed by our student worship team as a way to explore how faith connects to the daily lives of our students. The piece speaks to our individual spiritual flame within and our potential when we combine our gifts. You can see this and more art work at the **Visual Arts Show, April 23, 2019, 7 p.m. — RAW**, featuring works by visual art students, Grades 7 through 12, along with a café and entertainment.



S.L.I.C. JOURNEYS BUILD SKILLS, RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY

Last fall, we introduced you to some of the names and faces behind Students Learning In Community (S.L.I.C.). S.L.I.C. is part of one of six key elements of Rockway's new 'Going Beyond' Strategic Plan: *Our Journey: students develop an ability to lead with compassion when classroom learning is extended to the community so they can live Christ-centred values, develop empathy and perspective, and serve the community.*

This spring, Grade 9 Design & Technology students have completed their placement at The Working Centre – Recycle Cycles (seen right). Thanks to volunteers, Andrew Schiedel and Roger Sharpe, as well as the staff at the shop, students have developed new skills and been exposed to new people and places while supporting the mission of this community resource.

Meanwhile, Grade 8 Science students have recently completed inclusivity training with staff from Extend-A-Family in preparation for their spring placements with KW Habilitation. Five students and two volunteers will work side by side with participants in KW Habilitation's 'Our Farm' program. Together, people in this program are a community connected to the land, food and each other through hands on experience with sustainable farming.

Grade 11 and 12 students continue to volunteer at local schools as part of the Strong Start to Reading program. Through their senior English classes last semester, ten to fifteen students received training, and now have the opportunity to become certified independent volunteers.

There is more to come...look for Students Learning In Community later this year in partnership with the YMCA, House of Friendship, and another program of The Working Centre.



VOLUNTEERS LIFT ROCKWAY'S MISSION

Our Strategic Plan recognizes the value of 'Our People'. This year, National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 7-13, celebrated how volunteers lift organizations. This is true at Rockway. For example, when Rockway volunteer, Paul Fieguth speaks about mathematics he has an obvious passion for the subject. Paul is a professor at the University of Waterloo, Systems Design Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, and is the department Chair. This year, he is one of four recipients of the university's Distinguished Teacher Award.

At Rockway, he is simply Mr. Fieguth, who has been volunteering with groups of Grade 7 and 8 students every Monday morning since last November. That is when he piloted a six-week Math enrichment program that exposes students to new or complex concepts and engages them more deeply and creatively in the study of mathematics. Based on the success of the pilot program, Paul is providing Math enrichment until the end of this school year. Using a modified Grade 7 and 8 timetable and a rotating schedule, eight to ten students per week participate in the program. Paul develops and delivers the curriculum. He also provides outlines of the notes and 'problem sets' to the students and their Math teachers to support ongoing work in regular math classes between the enrichment sessions. Our congratulations and thanks to Paul for sharing his time, knowledge and love of Mathematics.



ALUMNI COME 'HOME' FOR FOUNDERS' DAY 2019



Alumni from across the first 74 years of Rockway's story came 'home' for Founders' Day Chapel in February. Alumna, Louise Wideman ('80) (pictured below right with Principal, Ann L. Schultz ('84) had us singing 'Home' at the outset. She kept our spirits lifted and our memories alive as she addressed the entire school, Alumni and friends.

We reflected on the founding story of Rockway, when on February 15, 1945, church conference delegates decided to create a school that would become in a short seven months, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. Students from our Faith and Worship Council opened the chapel with the lighting of the chapel candle and a reading. We acknowledged the contributions of our founders, honoured our graduating classes, and invited students to celebrate the legacy soon to be entrusted to them.

Guests then moved to the Assembly Area for tea, treats, and some beautiful music with Alumni, Jacob Steinmann ('16) and Laura Moolenbeek ('16) (pictured below with Alumni from her family). It was a morning fit for Rockway's story, and a day filled with love and appreciation. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS: FOUNDERS' DAY CHAPEL, Sunday, February 9, 2020, when we kick off Rockway's 75th celebrations, and a very special ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL, June 3-6, 2020.**





HIGH FIVE FOR '74 for 74'

After a rousing Founders' Day Chapel, we gathered 'online', Friday, February 15, 2019, to share Rockway's founding story and connect for the future.

Thank you for joining us online with your comments, clicks and gifts. In one short day, we reached our goal of 74 donations in honour of 74 years of Rockway, raising over \$7,500. Gifts supported tuition assistance, improved facilities, Envirathon Servathon, and daily operations.

Special thanks to volunteers – Bernie Burnett ('73), Gail Snyder ('79), Helmi Wiebe, Rolf Thiessen, Art Klassen and Dennis Wikerd, who inspired online giving with their hilarious videos. Visit rockway.ca to see them, and watch for more online Founders' Day fun next February.

SAVE THE DATE!

Connections Homecoming Weekend 2019

**Friday, October 18 &
Saturday, October 19**

Enjoy your homecoming weekend with fellow Alumni, current Rockway families, and friends:

- **Friday, October 18:** Spaghetti Supper, Rockway Community Silent Auction and the Alumni Sports Challenge—Basketball
- **Saturday, October 19:** Retired and Former Faculty & Staff Breakfast and BIG Night Out Dance

Calling all Alumni: start planning your Connections Weekend class reunions. Alumni are invited to contact alumni@rockway.ca or **519-743-5209** to book your free classroom space or use of the gyms Saturday afternoon.



ROCKWAY ALUMNI



ALUMNA RETURNS TO THE ROCKWAY CLASSROOM

Andrew McMurtry ('14), Rockway's Engagement Coordinator, recently sat down to speak with Rebecca Penfold (2000). Rebecca is here as student teacher for several weeks, gaining a variety of classroom experience and assisting with the Grade 7/8 play.

"When I was struggling with some issues in my elementary school in Grade 7, my parents and I decided to try Rockway for Grade 8 – and I stayed right through to finish OAC (Grade 13)!"

I was surprised that I liked all of my classes – even gym and math! Some big highlights were playing volleyball, winning CWOSSA and going on to win silver in OFSAA, going to China for five weeks on the exchange trip and of course, being involved in ALL the school dramas.

When I graduated from Rockway, I knew that I wanted to eventually become an English and Drama teacher – my experiences in the Rockway Dramas were what drew me to study Theatre in University.

Rockway literally changed my life – I would not be who I am today without the influence of this school and the people who support it. Thank you for providing opportunities for students to flourish in a safe and supportive environment.

I want to create that space for students – where they feel valued and that they have something important to contribute to the team or cast or classroom."



FLAMES ROUND UP

Joseph Boehm (first left, in blue) earned District 8 Champion and CWOSSA Champion honours en route to making the podium in 6th place at OFSAA.

Emily Moffat finished just out of the medals at 7th, earning Rockway its highest ever team finish at OFSAA.

James Torrance-Perks (right) was honoured with the District 8 Senior Boys Basketball All Stars at a recent KW Titans basketball game. James led the Senior team to 5th in District 8, CWOSSA Gold and an 11th finish at OFSAA.

Liam Enns, Junior Boys Basketball, and Maya Morton Ninomiya, Senior Girls Volleyball, also represented Rockway as All Stars.

More recently, Junior Badminton Flames finished 3rd overall at District 8 competition. Micah Neufeld, Paxton Yoder and Aki Tadukaro advanced to CWOSSA.

Congratulations also to Claudia Heeney for her bronze medal-winning performance at the World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships in January. This followed her incredible performance at the Canadian Nationals, where she became the Canadian Junior Short Track Speed Skating champion.





GOING BEYOND DAY – MAY 15, 2019

Did you know that tuition fees cover approximately 85% or nine-and-a-half months of our school's annual operating budget? Apart from a small amount of rental income and an annual grant of from MCEC, fundraising covers the rest from approximately May 15 to July 31. **On behalf of our entire school community, THANK YOU for going beyond to fill this gap for Rockway students and families.**



In addition, charitable donations are improving 'our home', another strategic priority. This includes recent renovations to the basement and music portables. We have now begun replacing several roofs and will also be addressing HVAC needs. Rumour has it that we may even get some much needed air-conditioning relief in more spaces!

This is only possible because of growing support for Rockway's 4 year, \$3 million *Lead Us Onward* campaign. Supporters have given and pledged over \$2.5 million so far for bright futures that start at Rockway. Thank you for leading us onward with generosity. Learn more at rockway.ca.

There are two gifts we can give our children; roots of inner values and wings of independence to seek their destiny ~ based on 'Roots and Wings' poem by Denis Waitley

We are grateful for the generous support of many who, throughout their life, donate their time, talent, treasure and testimony to Rockway. Occasionally, we receive a bequest, a very special gift made in a will.

It is often a gift from a grateful Alumni or former-Rockway parent, or someone who simply believed in the importance of a Christian Mennonite Anabaptist highschool. Having experienced or witnessed a Rockway education take root in a child's life, they chose to remember future students with their final wishes, giving wings to bright futures.

Rockway's Board of Directors is very mindful of the generosity, possibilities and responsibility that come with these legacy gifts, particularly those intended for specific purposes (undesignated bequests up to a certain value support daily education, and larger undesignated bequests are invested).

All of these meaningful gifts, often made with careful consideration of family members and with professional advice, leave the promise of bright futures. They are gifts of love to future Rockway students and families. They leave a poignant reminder, a footprint on our history, of those who support the school. And they give the hope of a better future, giving our young people the roots to grow and the wings to fly. *Thank you.*



ROCKWAY'S MISSION

As a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate integrates sound academic learning with growth in character and faith, together with a passion for peacemaking and service to God and all creation.

LEAD US ONWARD
The Campaign to Build Bright Futures

SEE YOU SOON! Upcoming Events

a midsummer night's dream

or...
the night they missed the forest for the trees

ADAPTED FROM SHAKESPEARE'S PLAY by
Nancy Linehan Charles

MAY 2 & 3, 2019 | 7:30 pm

tickets \$10 | available online or at the door | general admission

visit rockway.ca for more information
about this grade 7&8 production

Rockway
MENNONITE COLLEGIATE
Charitable #: 119122091RR0001



rockway.ca

SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019
Grade 7&8 @ 6:45pm
Grade 9-12 @ 8:00pm

24TH
Annual

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's GOLF CLASSIC

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Chipping In Fore
Rockway Students

Proceeds support Student Tuition Assistance

www.rockway.ca

QUESTIONS? Contact: christiner@rockway.ca | 519.342.0007 x3011



#ForeRockway

REGISTER
TODAY!

THE ULTIMATE ALUMNI PICNIC

SAVE
THE
DATE

Saturday, June 8, 2019
12 - 4 pm



GRADUATION CEREMONIES

GRADE 8 – Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 7:30 pm

GRADE 12 – Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 3:30 pm



Contact Us

For more information about
our school and mission:

**Rockway Mennonite
Collegiate**

110 Doon Road
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 3C8

T: 519-743-5209

F: 519-743-5935

advancement@rockway.ca

www.rockway.ca

Principal: Ann L. Schultz

Charitable Number: 119122091RR0001



#lifeatRockway

Reflections is a publication of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. If you prefer to receive
your copy by email please let us know at advancement@rockway.ca or 519-342-0007
x3011. Thank you.

