

Our

REFLECTIONS

SUMMER 2021

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI NEWS



Grade 12 students and faculty wave goodbye to the 2020-2021 school year during their online Grade 12 Grad Retreat

FINDING A WAY FORWARD

We look with optimism to the fall and the new school year. We are embracing the opportunity for renewal along with our 2021-2022 Chapel theme: *Love Does No Harm*.

This theme is based on the scripture: Romans 13:9b-10a, "*The commandments...are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbour.*"

What does it mean to love our neighbour as ourselves? To do no harm? These questions invite us to explore the various ways harm has been caused, sometimes under the guise of faith. By listening, we can begin to understand this harm. We can respond with humility to repair that harm and learn to live equitably with all. Our Chapel theme also gives context to the many Rockway community-building activities.

In keeping with Rockway's Mennonite faith, values and focus on peace and social justice, we will continue to explore questions of diversity and inclusivity throughout the coming year, advocating, *Love Does No Harm*.

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Rockway
MENNONITE COLLEGIATE

ACADEMIC PLAN 2021-2022: SAFETY AND RENEWAL

As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we are maintaining Rockway's *Academic Plan* Guiding Principles: **Safety, Academic Integrity and Community**. These align with Rockway's mission, vision and values.

We know that the Rockway student experience is a crucial part of why students are deeply connected to this school. **We are committed to bringing back cherished activities and rich experiences for students, and the Rockway community, as soon as it is safe to do so.**



Our Academic Plan is a starting point from which we can carefully plan ahead to reignite our beloved Rockway programs. We anticipate starting the year in the safety of cohorts, but with a detailed and flexible roadmap to transition to a non-cohorting schedule. Students will have a nine credit timetable: two quadesters scheduled from September 2021 – January 2022 and one semester scheduled from February – June 2022.

This plan allows Grades 7-10 (who remain in the same classes/cohorts throughout the year) to have in-person learning for all classes. Upper grades will return to all classes in-person as soon as possible, along with the addition of a third elective.

Students in Grades 11 and 12 will have the opportunity to take instrumental and/or choral music in Period 5 (they can accumulate either an additional ½ credit or full credit). Jeff Enns will join our faculty teaching Strings and Vocal Music. He has been a private music instructor at Rockway and the Beckett School for many years. In addition to currently being a Cohort Counsellor at Rockway, he is also the organist and choir director at the Church of the Holy Saviour in Waterloo.

Jeff will work with fellow Music teacher, Eric Dettweiler, Rockway's Brass and Winds Specialist, and teacher, Elizabeth Lepock, who will be providing administrative support. Together they will be re-imagining Rockway's Music program. We look forward to music returning to our halls, and hopefully sharing some music with our community too!

**...we are
committed to
bringing back
cherished
activities...**

Opportunities for Music, Design & Technology, Visual Arts and Family Studies will also continue to be offered for Grade 7 & 8 students throughout the year. Student clubs will meet online or outdoors (until able to meet indoors), and we are in conversation with District 8 regarding the Athletics program for 2021-2022 – *hopefully, sooner than later!*

Cohort Connections (a time designated to building relationships and creating community) will happen on a weekly basis during quadesters. Weekly Chapels will be online at first, becoming in-person gatherings as soon as it is safe to do so.

We are prepared and eager to accelerate elements of this plan if or when Public Health and/or provincial restrictions allow us to do so. For example, we are adding two portables to have the space to accommodate students in Grades 11 and 12 as soon as they are allowed to mix across classes/cohorts and return to full, in-person learning for all of their courses.

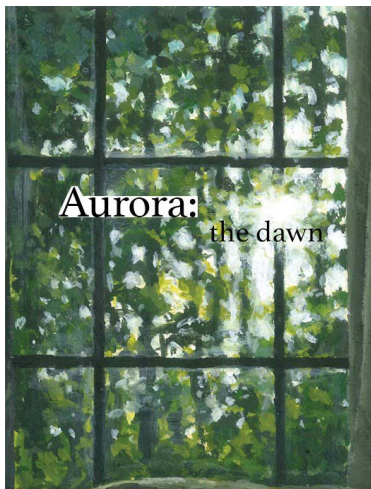
Step by step, the full breadth of the Rockway experience will return and be renewed! For more information visit www.rockway.ca or contact viceprincipal@rockway.ca.

Patience, flexibility and faith were integral to the success of our 2020-2021 *Academic Plan*. They will continue to serve students well in 2021-2022.

RESILIENT LIFE AT ROCKWAY

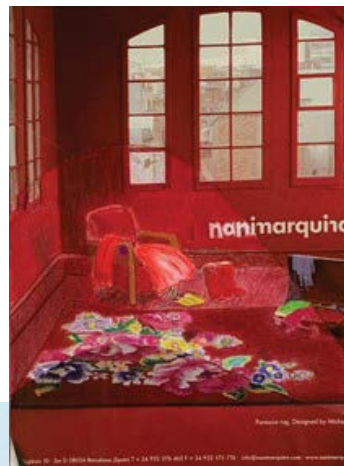
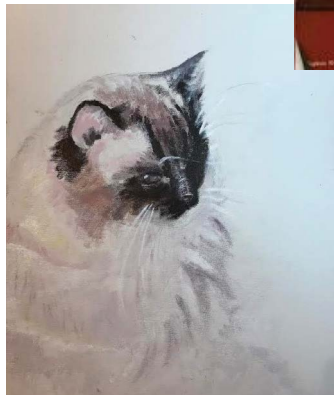
Annual Exhibition of Art, 2020-2021

A collection of art, Grades 8-12, was co-curated by students Esther Albrecht and Annie Metzger-Oke, for our first online Art Exhibition. Here are some highlights.



Aurora: the dawn ▲
Title Work by Esther Albrecht, Acrylic on Canvas

Zoe Fretz-Corlis
Moon (2021)
Discipline: Painting
Media: Acrylic on Canvas ▼



◀ Mikayla Neufeld, 2005
Red Galore (2021)
Discipline: Drawing
Media: Coloured Pencil on Mayfair, Mixed Media



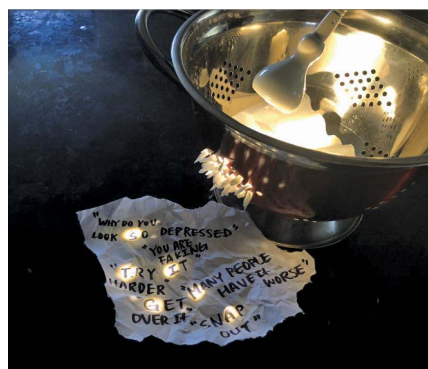
▶ Lindsey Li, 2004
Bunnies and Fallen Leaves (2020)
Edition: 2/2
Lithographic Print

'Retrospective' Grad Show

A collection of art online, Grade 12, curated by Annie Metzger-Oke.
To view the show, visit www.rockway.ca



Annie Metzger-Oke, 2003
Sydney Harbour Bridge After Dark
(2018) Photograph,
Digital Photography



▶ Su Na Lee, 2002 **Stigma** (2020)
Conceptual Sculpture
"This sculpture allows us to reflect on our misconception or disapproval of perceiving those who are mentally ill around us."



▲ Ming Yau (Anthony) Chan, 2002
Omniscience (2020)
Lithographic Print
Watercolour, Watercolour Pastel, and
Chine Collé, on Watercolour Paper

UNMUTING THE TOPIC OF UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Rockway's Grade 11 Human Behaviour class was joined online by Kimberlee Walker (seen below) from Canadian touring theatre company, **Theatre of the Beat**, in early June for an interactive workshop based on their drama, *"Unmute: The Impact of a Pandemic on Gender-Based Violence"*. This workshop was in a virtual format, and pairs with the *Unmute* Podcast, which can (but does not need to be) listened to in advance.

Theatre of the Beat leverages the power of applied theatre workshops to empower ordinary young people to support others who may be experiencing unhealthy relationship patterns. Since the highest rates of domestic violence occur between the ages of 18-25, this workshop was developed specifically for youth and young adults who may know (or be) victims, perpetrators, or bystanders to unhealthy relationships.

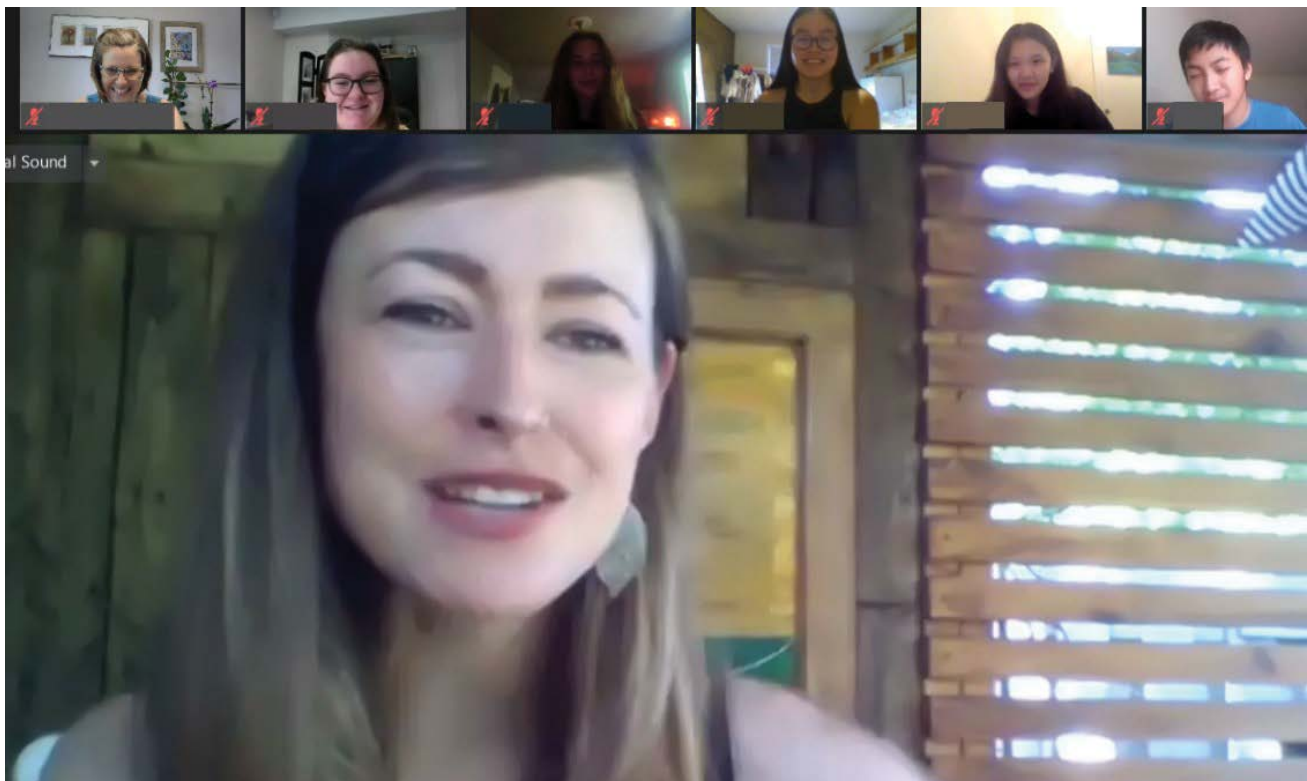
"The workshop was informative and relevant. We learned about healthy and unhealthy relationships and discussed different ways one of the teenage girls in the play could have intervened to help her friend."

Kimberlee introduced us to the idea of 'forum theatre' and the students impressed us with their willingness to do some role-playing. We divided into two groups, each group was given a scenario to act out, and the groups spent just a few minutes in break-out rooms preparing. When they came back together as a whole, we acted out the scenes and members of the other group had a chance to shout "stop" and jump in with some alternative options for responses.

It's definitely more difficult to promote interaction over Zoom, but Kimberlee did a great job of drawing people in. She immediately set a warm and encouraging tone that put students at ease. Kimberlee created a safe environment by letting students know they could leave (and send the teacher a note) if the subject matter was getting too heavy or too close to home."

**...the workshop
was informative
and relevant." ...**

~ Rockway teacher, Rebecca Steinmann





Wow! Our community blew us away with its response to Rockway's inaugural *A Taste of Spring... To Go!* Our Food Services team (top and left) were kept busy all week preparing over 460 delicious meals of sweet and sour chicken with rice and vegetables, plus a salad and dessert! Over \$7,300 was raised toward outdoor learning spaces for fall 2021. What we most appreciated was hearing all of the stories of how *Taste* brought people together, in-person and virtually, to eat, share and create community.



Due to the level and timing of COVID restrictions, we were not able to proceed with plans for *Envirathon Servathon 2021*. *Envirathon Servathon* will return in 2022! In the meantime, we were able to go ahead with *A Taste of Spring... To Go!*, the proceeds of which also support outdoor learning spaces at Rockway. Any donations received for *Envirathon Servathon 2021* will be added to *Taste* proceeds, giving students something to look forward to in the fall.

ALUMNI UPDATES

John Bender ('61): *"Retired for 13 years. It's an old saw: Where does the time go? Marty and I are at home in Goshen, Indiana. My time goes to regular walking, reading, photography, writing a blog, odd turns at cooking, sometimes taking a nap. Travel has been mostly out of the question the past year, but not totally. Rockway set me on the way to a rewarding life of work with words and the resulting riches of a satisfying and rewarding re-firement, as I sometimes call it."*

Chanel Cressman (2004) and Jeremy Roth (2004), pictured right: Congratulations on the arrival of their son Harlen Wilbur Cressman Roth on April 3, 2021.

Letitia Brubacher-Cressman (2013) and Ryan Hebel (2013), pictured right: Congratulations on the birth of their son Wesley Clark Hebel, March 27, 2021.

We can't wait to meet these latest future Alumni! Be sure to share your Alumni updates on Rockway's Alumni Facebook page or with alumni@rockway.ca. We love to hear from you!



BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY!

"I instantly felt connected to the sense of care and community that teachers and students foster at Rockway. The school positively impacted me in countless ways and was a second home for so many years. I will always cherish my years at Rockway."

Abigail Unrau Woelk – Class of 2020
Honours Arts at University of Waterloo (September 2021)



admissions@rockway.ca



ALUMNI FLASHBACK

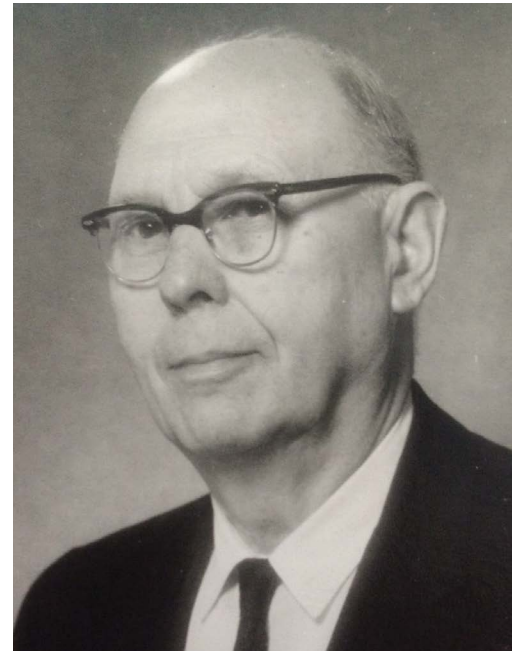
Gwen Burnham, daughter-in-law of former Rockway teacher, **Allan "Stuart" Burnham**, shared with us some family photos. They are from 1962-1966, when Stuart taught 'Manual Training Studies' at Rockway.

He compiled detailed notes and photos of students with their handcrafted woodwork, leaving behind a much-treasured Burnham family album. His family recalls how much he enjoyed teaching and remember him as 'a wonderful Christian man'.

Gwen wrote: *"I discovered that the table I sew on was made in one of those classes."*

If you look closely, you can also see the familiar Rockway streetscape.

Let us know if you recognize anyone in the photographs or have a memory to share: alumni@rockway.ca. And watch for more photos on the Rockway Alumni Facebook page.



staying hopeful supporting future Alumni

It is bittersweet to share that Rockway's Engagement Coordinator, Andrew McMurtry (2014), is leaving his position at the end of July 2021 to pursue his dream of working and travelling abroad. Andrew will be familiar to many of you as the person who has greeted, engaged and supported Rockway Alumni for the past three years. While his departure marks the end of a chapter, it is not the end of Andrew's Rockway story. You will continue to see him online and offline involved with events, such as the annual *Golf Classic*, the Alumni favourite, *Spaghetti Supper* and the homecoming *Alumni Sports Challenge*.



Meanwhile, inspired by his time at Rockway and the generosity of earlier Alumni, Andrew is making a parting gift to Rockway. He is supporting the 2021 *Golf Classic*, and when Alumni donate to Rockway this summer, Andrew will also make a matching donation up to a total of \$5,000. He is hopeful that younger generations of Alumni will take up the torch of previous Alumni and carry on the Rockway legacy. Thank you Andrew!

Alumni can donate at www.rockway.ca or by e-transfer to accountant@rockway.ca (donations to Rockway are eligible for charitable tax receipts).

staying hopeful creating safe spaces

Shortly before the pandemic restrictions of April 2021, which saw Rockway move again to *eRockway Learning*, two Rockway families – the McIntosh/Rai and Loberto – came forward to create safer spaces for students.

Specifically, they introduced us to “Austin”, a HEPA-air filtration unit that is improving air circulation and air quality in a number of classrooms and spaces.

Thanks to these families, we are half way to meeting the needs identified in an air quality assessment report that called for 12 classrooms and spaces to have “Austins”. The two families are hopeful that Rockway parents and community will donate the remaining \$4,300 to bring six more “Austins” to Rockway in time for the fall. Donate at www.rockway.ca or by e-transfer to accountant@rockway.ca (donations to Rockway are eligible for charitable tax receipts).

“Austin”



staying hopeful



Freedom 75

investing in Rockway's mission

As a family with deep connections to Rockway, David and Susan Seyler were thrilled to see Rockway thriving as it celebrated 75 years of mission and Alumni in February 2020. Susan Seyler and their three children are Alumni. In fact, 2021 is the 50th Anniversary of Susan's graduating Class!

When the pandemic hit shortly after, they asked themselves how they could help their community. They decided that pitching in to eliminate Rockway's ongoing accumulated operating deficit was a powerful way they could invest in the sustainability of our school and Mennonite secondary education, today and tomorrow.

They came forward with an extraordinary pledge to eliminate half the deficit if Rockway could find like-minded supporters to match their efforts. An ambitious mini-fundraising campaign, *Freedom75*, was born to free Rockway of its accumulated deficit in its 75th year. Incredibly, within a few short months a small group of people fulfilled this dream! Rockway is grateful and inspired by their and David and Susan's leadership and generosity.

David and Susan now hope this milestone achievement will inspire others to support Rockway at this critical time. They believe that through balanced budgets and community support, Rockway will continue to serve students, families and our community during and beyond the pandemic.

Together, we can stay hopeful and keep Rockway's mission strong as we continue to deliver a unique education and experience for future Alumni. Donate at www.rockway.ca or by e-transfer to accountant@rockway.ca (donations to Rockway are eligible for charitable tax receipts).



WELCOME STACEY!

Welcome **Stacey VanderMeer** as Rockway's *Director of Admissions and Recruitment – Domestic* effective July 2, 2021.

Stacey has a Master of Library and Information Science and a Bachelor of Arts, Honours Music, Church Music and Worship Option. She has worked at Conrad Grebel University College and more recently at St. Mary's High School. She is a member at Breslau Mennonite Church and has a long-standing connection and affection for Rockway. Her mother is a Rockway Alumna and her two sons will both be attending Rockway.

Stacey will overlap with Rockway's current *Director of Admissions and Recruitment*, David Lobe ('96), during July. Special thanks and kudos to David for all of his successful recruitment efforts and work on the Administrative management team these past five years. Rockway is much stronger because of him! Effective August 2021, David will continue his work for Rockway on International Recruitment. **You can reach Stacey at staceyv@rockway.ca**



IN MEMORY OF A GOOD FRIEND

Local travel agent Marlene Brumby understood what makes a successful travel adventure – one that is meticulously planned and executed. For more than twenty years, Marlene arranged travel details for Rockway's numerous national and international trips to Calgary, Winnipeg, Florida, France & Germany, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Jordan, and China.

Marlene was an outgoing woman who had a sense of humour, warmth, kindness, generosity, and a penchant for detail. As coordinator of the international exchanges at Rockway for many years, I had the good fortune of knowing Marlene on a business level and as a friend. I recall frequent phone calls, emails and text exchanges in which we sorted out what seemed to be endless details of departure and arrival dates, numbers, cost, and other travel logistics. For years, I recall welcoming Marlene in the office when she personally delivered a large envelope containing airline tickets, train and car rental vouchers, hotel reservations, and passports with stamped visas. She took time to thoughtfully review every travel detail with me or the chaperoning teachers. Cognizant of the fact that this was, for many students, their first international travel experience without parental supervision, she endeavoured to make their experience meaningful and successful.

Marlene passed away on March 31, 2021 after a lengthy, but courageous illness due to cancer. Marlene is fondly remembered as Rockway's travel consultant who helped create memorable travel adventures for myriads of students for more than two decades for which we are truly grateful. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Marlene's family.

Dennis Wikerd, former Rockway Vice Principal, on behalf of our broader Rockway community.



75 conversations FOR 75 YEARS

As part of its 75th year of mission, Rockway partnered with me to help spark '75 Conversations for 75 Years'. They wanted to raise awareness about the opportunity for Canadians to shape the footprints of their lives or 'legacies', specifically their philanthropic legacies.

Did you know that recent research shows that one-third of Canadians want to

help the charities they care about continue their good work? Yet, they also want help starting the conversation and gathering information about charities — they want to be inspired!

This past year, people have been asking more questions about their legacy footprints. We have hosted several complimentary webinars on how to reduce your income taxes and estate taxes to maximize your footprint.

Philanthropy, through volunteerism and giving, reflects the great Canadian tradition of generosity supported by our governments. Since the 1990's, the federal government has introduced into our Income Tax Act over twenty pieces of legislation to encourage individual charitable giving by all Canadians, no matter what their income.

As part of your team of professional advisors, a financial planner works with you to focus your planning on your relationships and values. We review what tools are available to help you create the kind of legacy footprint you want to leave behind.

When I first met with 'Margaret', she was not aware that she could choose to redirect some of her tax dollars or 'involuntary philanthropy' to support the causes and values important to her. She didn't see herself as a philanthropist.

Like most, she understands and supports the important role taxation plays in creating the vision of Canada she aspires to, and is glad to do her part. But when given the choice to do more in the future, to redirect some of her 'involuntary philanthropy' or tax dollars to the people and causes that mean the most to her, 'Margaret' was keen to learn more.

'Margaret' met with her Financial Advisor, and they created a plan. Through proper planning 'Margaret' learned that she could make a significant gift to charity and still protect her children's inheritance. 'Margaret' updated her will and shared her plans with her family. 'Margaret' now has the peace of mind that her lasting legacy footprint will protect those she loves and support the causes that best reflect her values.

Many of the people I talk with make this same choice. They choose to do more with their legacy footprint. It fulfills their sense of purpose and extends their love beyond their lives.

If this is something that interests you, consider starting the conversation today. Talk with your circle of professional advisors. Talk with your family. And talk with Rockway at advancement@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 to be inspired about the future of Anabaptist Mennonite education in our community.

Together, let's stay hopeful and keep the conversation going.

~ Lynn Whetham, Financial Writer, Educator and Talk Show Host

**...talk with
your circle of
professional
advisors...**



STAYING CONNECTED

Our school continued with eRockway Learning to close out the 2020-2021 school year.

As we enter summer and prepare for a return to classes in the fall, we continue to monitor the situation, adjust as we are able to, and stay connected.

Please stay tuned to your email, www.rockway.ca and social media for announcements and updates. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we remain #RockwayResilient



Rockway's Main Office staff continue to work remotely this summer. We are hopeful that our Main Office will open, fully staffed on Monday, August 16!

In the meantime, here is how you can connect with us over the summer:

- **Donor Questions:** Christine at advancement@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3011
- **Admissions Inquiries:** Stacey at admissions@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3029
- **Alumni Updates:** alumni@rockway.ca
- **General Inquiries:** info@rockway.ca
- **Main Office Hours:** Rockway's Main Office is closed for holidays from July 12-16 and July 19-23, 2021

Please note, our response times may be slower over the summer as individuals take time to rest and rejuvenate for the next school year.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS
BACK TO SCHOOL ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Mark Your
Calendars



+1!
ROCKWAY'S 75TH FUNDRAISING DINNER

BIG
NIGHT OUT

BACK TO
THE BARN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021



Steckle
Heritage Farm
Connect, Educate, Grow and Inspire the City

Reflections is a publication of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. Please let us know if you prefer to receive your copy by mail or email. Contact us at advancement@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x.3011. Thank you.



Our 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 peace-making and service to God and all creation.

Stay Connected

We'd love to hear from you!
You can connect with us at:

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#lifeatRockway