

Our

REFLECTIONS

SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER: NEWS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI UPDATES



FROM AN ACORN WILL GROW 'A MIGHTY GREAT OAK'

Spring greetings! We hope this issue of *Reflections* finds you and those in your 'bubble' well. At Rockway, we celebrate this special season and welcome spring. In particular, we are watching our 'Chortitza Oak' sapling (not yet big enough to picture here). It was gifted to Rockway and planted last spring on the front grounds in honour of the school's 75th year.

The tiny sapling was sprouted by Nathan Funk from a specimen at Conrad Grebel University College. It descends from and grows in memory of the great oak in Chortitza, Ukraine.

For over 800 years, the oak provided a gathering place and landmark for many, including Mennonites who settled in the Ukraine in the 18th century. It is a reminder of their journeys and trials. Our sapling also represents our deep appreciation for the strength of faith and community that led to the founding of Rockway in 1945, and our recognition of those who continue to learn and grow here and those who continue to support and nurture them.

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Spiritual Emphasis Week



resilience: bending, not breaking in the storm

February 23-25, 2021

GUEST SPEAKER: Susan Schwartzentruber '89

Clinical Director & Counsellor at Shalom Counselling Services

Opening Chapel Sponsored by Mennonite Church Eastern Canada



All-school Chapels are a treasured weekly tradition at Rockway, bringing our school together to reflect on bigger questions of faith, spirituality and community. Normally, we would gather in our Assembly Area. This year, we are sharing together via pre-recorded Chapels.

Once-a-year, we host a special focus week: *Spiritual Emphasis Week* that includes three morning Chapels. Echoing Rockway's 2020-2021 overall Chapel theme, Alumna, Susan Schwartzentruber, gave three Chapel addresses and several virtual classroom visits on the timely topic of resilience:

1. *Peter and a Donkey* – using the story of Peter the Apostle and a fable about a donkey to raise self-awareness
2. *Fight/Flight/Freeze – It's Normal* – exploring specific resilience strategies. This coincided with the awareness day, *Pink Shirt Day*, which challenges bullying.
3. *Becoming a Forest of Trees* – finding sources of support and growing a community of resilience

Being able to visit classes virtually enabled Susan to reach more students with helpful, practical resilience-building strategies during this critical time. We also shared these Chapels online with

Alumni, and are sharing all weekly Chapels with families, to help build resilience throughout our community.

In an earlier Chapel, Rockway parent, Laura MacGregor, inspired us to reflect upon the use of language and how it influences/communicates about inclusion. Through this lens, we chose to edit our 2020-2021 Chapel theme from, 'resilience: strength in *standing* together' to 'resilience: strength in *joining* together.' This update is reflected in our new community banner, which welcomes people to our school.

Rockway Chapel gives us all an opportunity to listen, reflect and discern how we can live out our school's values for a healthier school community. With this spirit, Rockway remains committed to its journey of greater inclusion and diversity.



RESILIENT LIFE AT ROCKWAY



Meet Rockway's first ever online, multi-continental, international class! Top row, L-R: Betsy, Ms. Mathies, teacher, Jack. Bottom row, L-R: Aaron, Rick, Frank.

Ms. Mathies shares: Betsy from Hong Kong is a grade 9 artist who dressed up for the various pre-Christmas activities, is wildly enthusiastic about everything Rockway, and is excited to use her visa and get here now (she will join us for quadmester 4); Rick from Beijing is an outgoing grade 10 student who plays basketball and said of Cohort Connections: *"The conversation was wonderful! Everyone was so much friendlier than I expected!"*; Aaron has shown us pictures of his hikes in the hills near Hong Kong, entertains us with fun background screens, and has already challenged Rick to a basketball game when they both get on campus (Editor Note: Rick and Aaron have both arrived safely in Canada. Welcome!). Frank, who has been at Rockway since the beginning of grade nine, has introduced us to his cats, and Jack, who has been here since then too, occasionally has his brother Jerry – also a Rockway student – stroll through the room behind him. Both are able to give valuable advice from a student perspective to the rest of the class, who are new this term. This historic first for Rockway – an international student class happening across time zones – has been fantastic, thanks to the excellent work and phenomenal participation of the students!

Meanwhile on campus, Rockway students are enjoying Cohort Connections and activities led by Student Council. They recently participated in Winter Olympics, a week of outdoor friendly competition, including snowshoeing, potato sack races, sledding... even tug'o'war.





Rockway Robotics



GEARING UP FOR MORE FUN

After a successful first season, Rockway Robotics is back with a new logo designed by students. Watch for a web domain too!

Meanwhile, about twenty-five students are enjoying extra-curricular workshops and competitions online as part of the Waterloo Wellington First Robotics Organization (during the hiatus of FIRST Robotics competitions).

Thanks to donations, each student will receive a personalized robotics car kit and extra pieces. Additional kits will be purchased for Rockway's quadmester 4 Robotics class with fourteen students (only one student is in both the club and the class).



Thursday 27
~~Monday, May 3, 2021~~
Taking GOOD Care

It's been a tough year for many. "Taking good care" can be easier said than done, which is why Rockway students, led by Student Council, are determined to forge ahead with *Envirathon Servathon 2021*, although modified for current health and safety protocols.

This annual effort dates back over thirty years and historically has included a cyclathon and students collecting pledges. In its current form, the focus is on service.

On Thursday, May 27, 2021, rain or shine (with pandemic restrictions), our entire school, along with volunteers from lead sponsor, Kindred Credit Union, will continue this great Rockway tradition of one day of service dedicated to caring for our community and for our earth.

That morning, in keeping with safety, it will be all hands on deck on campus in classroom cohorts preparing projects that care for our community. The afternoon will see us venture outside in cohorts to take good care of our campus (e.g. building those picnic tables made possible by proceeds from *Spaghetti Supper To Go!*), neighbourhood (e.g. sopping up our outdoor track) and helping in our community (e.g. tidying local trails).

To support this day of caring and service, donate at www.rockway.ca, Donate Button, and select the Envirathon Servathon fund. *All donations will go toward Rockway's ongoing efforts to revitalize our outdoor spaces – watch for some exciting changes this fall!*

JOIN US FOR...



AS PART OF ROCKWAY'S ENVIRATHON SERVATHON, PICK UP **A TASTE OF SPRING...TO GO**, TO ENJOY AT HOME WITH YOUR 'BUBBLE'. WE'RE UPDATING A STUDENT LUNCH FAVOURITE TO BRING YOU A HOMEMADE SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN DINNER. YOU KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD!

MENU:

- Spring Salad – romaine lettuce, mandarin oranges, raisins and sunflower seeds with dressing on the side.
- Sweet & Sour Chicken with Rice (This is a GF and DF meal and is packed with veggies)
 - Vegetarian/Vegan Option: Sweet & Sour Tofu with Rice (packed with veggies)
 - Chocolate dipped Meringue cookies for dessert (vegan option available)

ORDERING:

Meals will be available to order in advance in the following portions:
Sweet & Sour Chicken (or vegetarian/vegan) Dinner for ONE - \$15 (HST included)
Sweet & Sour Chicken (or vegetarian/vegan) Dinner for FOUR - \$55 (HST included)

Order your **A Taste of Spring...To Go!**

online at www.rockway.ca by ~~Tuesday, April 27, 2021~~ **Friday, May 21** • 4:00 pm. Only advance orders will be taken.

With students and teachers spending more time outdoors, any proceeds will go toward Envirathon Servathon for further outdoor campus improvements for the fall.

CURB-SIDE PICK UP:

~~Monday, May 3, 2021, 4:00-6:00 pm~~
Thursday, May 27

ENJOY!

- Connect with your family/bubble for A Taste of Spring...To Go!
- Consider sharing your supper online with family and friends near and far. If you're Alumni, connect with fellow Alumni and/or your Class, and reminisce about Envirathon Servathon.
- Be sure to send us your A Taste of Spring...To Go! photos to share online ([twitter](#), [FB](#) and [Instagram](#))

Christmas Cheer Cookies **TO GO**

Snack. Share. CONNECT.

Principal, Ms. Schultz and VP, Mr. Grobe made a special delivery of cookie orders to students for their families.



Food Services Coordinator, Cyndi Pugh, needed a few big bags of flour for this cookie order!



Faculty/staff person, Jen Hoffman-Bailey (along with colleague, Eric Dettweiler) provided some music cheer during the Cookies To Go pick up.



“Here is the pic (right) I took picking up the wonderful cookies. We have prepared all our gift bags for family with these cookies (left).”

~ Glen Woolner, '64

Glen wasn't the only one spreading Christmas cheer with cookies last December. Former Rockway parent, Marg Voll, bought 15 boxes (of the 200+ cookie orders) for her family, friends and neighbours (with their permission). Her son, and Rockway Alumnus, Ryan Westman, fondly remembers \$1 Rockway cookies in the school cafeteria. Marg enjoyed delivering cookies – socially-distanced, of course. One elderly couple sent her a note of thanks. Another recipient enjoyed sharing the cookies with her family. Marg says, “It really made me happy to connect with neighbours.” It made us happy too! **Thank you to everyone who connected, spread some cheer, and supported Rockway's Music program with cookie proceeds of \$2,500.**

Just how good were the cookies?





ALUMNI UPDATES:

Maya Morton Ninomiya (2019): Maya has created illustrations for Kindred Credit Union's Community Inspiration Framework.

Tim Shantz (1990): Tim and his choral group *Luminous Voices* have received a 2021 Juno nomination for Classical Album of the Year: Vocal or Choral.

Ryan Westman (Grade 8 Alumnus): Ryan continues to further his education, most recently graduating as University of Waterloo, Class of 2019, with a Master of Public Service. He is currently working in cyber security with Deloitte.



Glen Woolner (1964), above, centre with his family. Glen shared this reflection: *"When I was a child, my parents took in Ontario Bible School and Rockway boarding students. One of those Rockway students was Harold Ford from the Mennonite community in Toronto.*

Harold was very enthusiastic about his time at Rockway and shared much with us about his experiences around the dinner table and even allowed me to help with school projects. This made a big impression on me and I was determined to attend when I was old enough.

To help pay for tuition I worked on my uncle's farm in the summer, keeping only a little spending money to treat myself. But I got to go to Rockway, which definitely helped me in my Christian faith and shape my life values, learning the essentials of the Anabaptist church, and in the process making life long friends.

I am forever indebted to Rockway, and for the opportunity to serve this place over the years. Our children are graduates and now our first granddaughter is attending.

My wife Margaret and I are so thankful that Rockway has continued to thrive, and for all those who have kept the faith, passed on that faith, and given in a multitude of ways to make that possible. We are blessed, and our whole community is blessed, to have Rockway's continued existence!"

Share your significant Alumni moments. Email your updates to advancement@rockway.ca and/or share on the [Rockway Alumni facebook](#) page with over 500 fellow Alumni!





WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS



THANK YOU FOR COUNTING YOURSELVES IN FOR ROCKWAY

For Rockway's 76th year of mission and Alumni, we asked Alumni to count themselves in for Rockway Founders' Day.

Rockway was founded February 15, 1945.

Each year, we remember and celebrate Rockway's founding story at a special Founders' Day Chapel, and with a day of online fun.

This year, Alumni joined us for an Alumni viewing of an online Rockway Founders' Day Chapel. Our school community had watched the chapel earlier in the day. You can view it at www.rockway.ca, under the Support tab - Rockway Founders' Day.

Together, we heard from Alumni and Rockway sweethearts, Chanel Cressman and Jeremy Roth (both Class of 2004), with their message of how Rockway creates community.

Alumni created more community during Zoom breakout rooms where they reconnected and reminisced. It was lovely to see you all! (picture top left).

After Chapel, Josslin Insurance provided a matching pledge, challenging Alumni and our community to click and support Rockway. And you did!

Even our Bernie (Alumnus and former faculty and staff person, Bernie Burnett, '73) got into the act.

Hundreds watched the Founders' Day Chapel video and many clicked, shared, commented and donated, matching Josslin Insurance's pledge, and then some!

Over \$10,000 was raised for Rockway programs, tuition assistance and facilities.

THANK YOU!

Most of all, after a year of not gathering with Alumni in person, we were able to connect, 'see' some of you, and share our love of Rockway with current students and families. Priceless!



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Insurance
a Real Insurance™ broker



 | **ROCKWAY
ALUMNI**



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: The Value of ONE, The Power of Many.

As we approach **National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, 2021**, during these uncertain times, we understand even more how the value of one volunteer contributes to the power of many.

In a typical year, volunteers donate over 1,000 hours to support Rockway events, programs, teams, and administrative tasks. From students and Alumni to parents and retired faculty, we see skill sets from coaching to bike repairs to dress making, and just about everything in between! These diverse efforts of our Rockway community remind us how one person can make a difference in the lives of students. We have been blessed beyond measure by volunteer gifts of time, talent, guidance and prayers. Thank you, Rockway volunteers.

ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE'S
GOLF CLASSIC
• **Wednesday, June 2, 2021**
**Chipping In Fore
Rockway Students**
Proceeds support Student Tuition Assistance
www.rockway.ca
QUESTIONS? Contact: andrew@rockway.ca | 519-743-5209 x3601
#ForeRockway #RockwayResilient

ROCKWAY
MENNONITE COLLEGIATE
A SMALL SCHOOL FOR A BIG WORLD

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY!

"Rockway was more than just a place of academic excellence – it was a community of support at a vital time in my life. The people around me were as dedicated to my high school success as I was. This nurturing environment allowed me to grow as a leader and challenged my way of thinking. "

Anya Sheltra, Class of 2020
Queen's University, Nursing and Global Development (Dual Degree)

admissions@rockway.ca

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Rockway Families and Community,

Our students have almost completed their third quadmester in this most unusual school year. We are so grateful for our Rockway school, including all Faculty and Staff, for their ongoing leadership and care.

Earlier this year, I made an important announcement: our beloved principal, Ann L. Schultz is retiring, effective December 31, 2021. Naturally, this is sad news for us. We have loved Ann's leadership and thank her for her stellar service over her many (30!) years at Rockway and in particular, for her outstanding leadership over the past eight years as Rockway's Principal. Ann has brought vision, grounding, care and grace to her role as Rockway's leader.

Over Ann's years as Principal, student numbers have grown, the budget has stabilized and most importantly, our students and the school have thrived. Ann has done so much: Greeting students by name at the door, attending to the business needs of the school, addressing parents' questions, meeting with supporters, setting timetables, working with Faculty and Staff, relating with the Board, nurturing the mission and vision of the school, and managing a very tricky year related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ann's work with us has been phenomenal. We will miss Ann so much.

There will be time for gratitude and formal farewells in the months to come. In the meantime, we are grateful for Ann's ongoing commitment to the school through to the end of 2021. Ann wrote in [her resignation letter](#):

"Please be assured my energy and passion for Rockway will continue over the next nine months. Rockway's financial picture, while healthy, is fragile in the ongoing pandemic context; enrollment continues to look promising despite the challenges of these uncertain times; we're grateful for the continued support of donors and the engagement of Alumni; academic and extra-curricular activities are thriving; faculty and staff are committed to Rockway's mission, vision and values; parents and students are engaged, and Rockway's Board of Directors remains strong and dedicated. I believe Rockway is in a good place and our current strategic planning will enable the school to continue to be sustainable."

The Board has struck a committee to coordinate the search for a new Rockway Principal. The committee is taking time to develop the posting for this position. We anticipate that the position will be posted in April 2021. Stay tuned to www.rockway.ca for updates – we hope to have the incoming Principal appointed by mid-September 2021 to overlap with Ann for a few months, and officially start January 1, 2022.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our school. The Board and I look forward to this year with Ann's leadership and commitment to the school. And we value your ongoing prayers and goodwill as we plan for a new Principal for our school.

With best wishes,
Betty Pries, Board Chair



Principal Ann L. Schultz, '84, with Board Chair, Betty Pries

STAYING CONNECTED

We are grateful that our school continues to be healthy and safe.

To maintain health and safety, we are not yet hosting any rentals, special events or Alumni Basketball on campus. We continue to monitor the situation, adjust as we are able to, and find new and fun ways to 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 are #RockwayResilient

March Break is now Spring Break! The school will be closed April 12-16. During this time, you can continue to reach Admissions at admissions@rockway.ca, and register for Golf and donate at www.rockway.ca.



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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T: 519-743-5209
F: 519-743-5935

office@rockway.ca
www.rockway.ca

Principal: Ann L. Schultz '84

Charitable Number: 119122091RR0001



#lifeatRockway

Join us...**ONLINE!**

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 | 7:15 pm

DISCOVER ROCKWAY
for your child

register at rockway.ca

GRADUATION

Stay tuned to rockway.ca/graduation/ for ceremony news for the Class of 2020 (June 26) and the Class of 2021 (June 27)

New Date!

BIG NIGHT OUT

BACK TO THE BARN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

+1!
ROCKWAY'S 75TH FUNDRAISING DINNER

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 519-342-0007 x.3011. Thank you.