

# Our

# REFLECTIONS

SPRING 2023

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI NEWS

## A NEW SEASON *by Principal Elaine Ranney*

Many new things are unfolding and life at Rockway continues to be vibrant as we also experience newness in events that are returning.

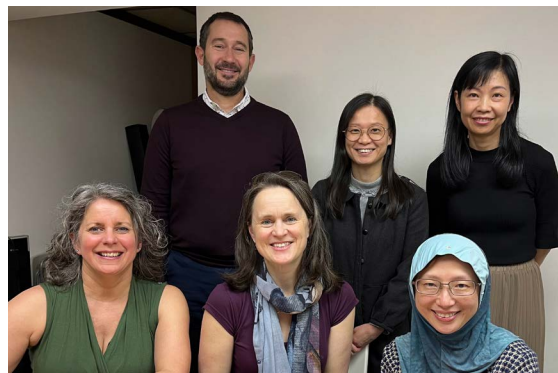
Sheri Wideman and Stacey VanderMeer have both been encountering new seasons at Rockway as they settle into their new roles. The Director of Admissions and Recruitment position, left open when Stacey transitioned into the Librarian role, has been filled by Sheri, who has transitioned from her many years of teaching French, Social Science and Business courses at Rockway. Sheri has not only ventured into this new office territory but has also recently journeyed on an International Student recruitment trip to Japan, Vietnam and Hong Kong with Jill Sauer '88, our International Student Program Manager, and former Director of Admissions and Recruitment, David Lobe '96. Stacey is making her mark in the Library by implementing new library software to facilitate better access to our catalogue for our students, staff and faculty and launching new Chromebook procedures to better track Chromebook lending. She has updated our fiction collection and created eye-catching book displays for them.

The *Come Together* event held at Rockway in January, was planned

as part of an MCEC initiative that offered a time of celebrating and connecting young people. The 120 Jr. Youth and 30 sponsors engaged in fun-filled activities that featured music by Rockway's house band, *Better Than Nothing*, a drama by Theatre of the Beat, a demonstration by the Rockway Robotics team and a peace-making reflection by our new Vice-Principal, Josh Hill.

Rockway is excited about the return of our All-School Musical – the first in six years – with rehearsals currently underway. A great number of students will be involved in different aspects of Rockway's production of *FROZEN JR.* planned for June 7-10, 2023. Rockway's Senior Choir made its first church visit post-pandemic on February 26 to Breslau Mennonite Church and just returned from their trip to MSC (Mennonite Schools Council) Choral Festival in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in April, the first in-person festival since 2019.

I look forward to June as this will also be a new season for me, with plans underway for the 2023 Grade 12 Graduation, complete with Rockway's traditional grad banquet following the afternoon ceremony.



While on their International Student recruitment trip, Rockway staff were able to meet with some parents of current Rockway students. Front: Jill Sauer, Sheri Wideman, Eva Wong Back: David Lobe, Wing Yue Chung, Rosanna Lo

May the end of the school year bring life and joy to everyone as the next season is launched with its own newness.

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT ROCKWAY

We began the planning for Black History month by inviting our current Black students to participate in conversations about what a successful Black History Month would look like to them. Based on their feedback, we began creating several different components of engagement. We were fortunate to kick-off Black History month by listening to Nick Aboagye who is a second year student at the University of Waterloo in the Honours Arts (Co-op) program. He challenged us to think more broadly about racism and to consider racism as a structural factor in society that is more pervasive than simply a targeted comment.

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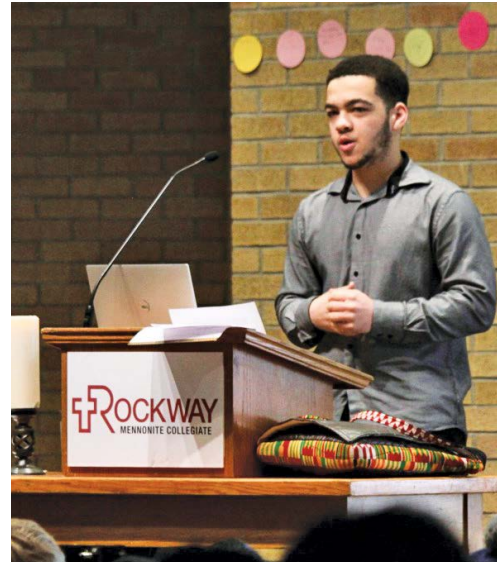
*“He challenged us to think more broadly about racism...”*

Throughout the month, classes watched one video each day that was part of a series of videos called **28 Moments in Black Canadian History**.

These short videos introduced us to current Black Canadians and

their lived experiences in Canada as well as an historic Black Canadian or historical event that involved Black Canadians. Our students remarked that many of these historical moments were unfamiliar to them which lead to conversations around why certain voices and perspectives have been left out of traditional historical accounts. These daily videos and conversations helped us to have on-going and sustained conversations about anti-Black racism. They also helped us to think about how we work to create more equitable spaces for Black members of our community.

The month concluded with a chapel led by local racial justice advocate, Janis Juma. She challenged us to think beyond Black History Month by promoting Black flourishing throughout the year. The work of racial justice cannot be confined to one month of the year and Janis' message was an important call for our school community to commit to the on-going engagement that is necessary to create safe places for everyone here at Rockway. With much work still to be done, we are excited about the ways in which this year's Black History month will help us to continue to live out our values here at Rockway.



*Guest speaker, Nick Aboagye, shared with us in Chapel to open Black History Month.*

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*Local racial justice advocate, Janis Juma, challenged and encouraged us to stay informed, be good safe listeners, celebrate Black life, speak up against anti-Black harm, get involved and tend to our inner lives.*

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# #LifeAtRockway

## FOOD DRIVE

This past December, students participated in the Food Drive campaign to raise funds for **House of Friendship's Christmas Food Hamper Program**. Student Council challenged the school community to help raise \$25,000 using many events, including a polar plunge, to incentivize. Rockway students were more than up to the challenge and raised an astounding **\$31,412!** On February 6 (when the weather was finally cold enough!), volunteers from Student Council, faculty and staff braved the cold and took a very chilly bath.

*Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign!*



*Principal Ranney took the plunge in full bridal attire.*

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## ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

**Volleyball** – Back in November, the Sr. Boys' Volleyball team finished their incredible season with a silver medal in a hard-fought battle in the OFSAA finals. In February, Rockway hosted the CWOSSA Girls' "A" Volleyball Championships. The Junior Rockway team thrilled the hometown crowd by winning the championship in three sets against Valley Heights.

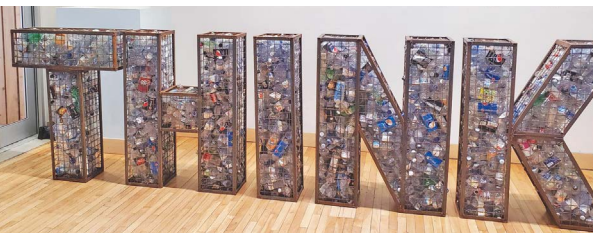
**Alpine** – Despite some challenging weather and snow conditions, Rockway's Alpine ski team had a great season! Although two of their races were cancelled due to freezing rain, the team performed incredibly well at the CWOSSA race coming home with three medals: Elek Katona; bronze, Suri Schmidt; bronze, and Morgen Schmidt; gold. Morgen made Rockway history by qualifying for OFSAA Alpine. She made Rockway proud placing in the top third of the Giant Slalom race.

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## ROCKWAY ROBOTICS

After an off-season filled with learning and skill building, the competition season for Rockway Robotics began in early January with the release of this year's game. After nine intense weeks of designing, building, coding and testing, the team played in two back-to-back district qualification events, gaining enough points to earn a spot at the provincial championship. While the finish at provincials may have been lower than the team had hoped for, the dedication, enthusiasm and support they showed to their team members as well as other teams throughout the season is commendable.

A huge **thank you** to all of our mentors and sponsors who make this program possible and congratulations to the team on an excellent season!



## THINK PROJECT

In a sobering March chapel, students were confronted with our complicated relationship with plastic and the legacy we are leaving behind. As part of the chapel, students were shown the video, [Hate Myself for Loving You](#), which was recorded and filmed on location and

features a number of Rockway musicians. The video's THINK set was welded by Rockway alumna *Ellery Ezekiel '22* and was stuffed with plastic bottles by our grade 7 & 8 classes. One remarkable reality is that the solid steel structure will biodegrade hundreds of years before the plastic bottles inside.

The THINK set was moved to THEMUSEUM in downtown Kitchener where it was on display for the month of April. From there it will move to 50 Kent and then to the New Hamburg Relief Sale.



## ROCKWAY AT THE ONTARIO ETHICS BOWL



*Team Kant Stop, Won't Stop before one of their matches at the Provincial Championships*

This year Rockway entered the Ontario Ethics Bowl (OEB) for the first time. The league was established by the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto Mississauga in 2019 as a way to engage high school students in ethical reflection, philosophical dialogue and collaborative conversations about important issues. Through a set of case studies, Ethics Bowl encourages students to develop thoughtful and informed responses to important ethical questions. Participants work cooperatively within their own teams and with teams from other schools as they wrestle with big ideas and their implications.

Rockway entered two teams in this year's OEB: *Kant Stop, Won't Stop* (named in honour of the moral philosopher Immanuel Kant) and *Bend it Like Bentham* (named in honour of utilitarianism's founder Jeremy

Bentham). After competing in several exhibition matches over the fall, both teams entered February's Virtual Qualifier with 81 other teams from across the province. Both teams placed in the Top 30, which was a great result. Better still, *Kant Stop, Won't Stop* ranked 15th, and qualified for the Provincial Championships held at the University of Toronto Mississauga in early March.

Despite a strong performance at provincials, where *Kant Stop, Won't Stop* did exceptionally well, the team did not advance to the final round. Judges commented on the teams' skill at responding thoughtfully to other teams' presentations and at thinking on their feet. A Grade 12 student on our team, reflected on the value of the Ethics Bowl experience: *"I really liked the way the format encouraged us to think collaboratively and work with other teams. Traditional debate encourages a certain combativeness but this forces us to work with others and to think more carefully about significant issues."*

Rockway is grateful to Dr. Allison Murray, the teacher-coach who brought this rich opportunity to our students. Bravo! Plans are already underway to make our second season in OEB even better!

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK APRIL 16-22, 2023

**We celebrate and thank our Rockway Volunteers –** for the time, talent and energy they share to strengthen the fabric of our Rockway community. Just like the beautifully crafted quilts that grace our halls and Silo, the unique fabrics, colours and textures, when placed artfully together, bring to life the bigger vision of the quilter, so is it true of our volunteers! **THANK YOU** to each one for their unique gifts that, when woven together, allow us to accomplish big things at Rockway.

To find out more or to get involved as a Rockway Volunteer, email our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@rockway.ca](mailto:volunteers@rockway.ca).

**#NVW2023 #WeavingUsTogether #LifeAtRockway**



*(left to right) David Albrecht '87, Charleen Jongejan Harder, Monica Carrillo. These Rockway parents are all smiles while hard at work keeping up with the dishes from our first-ever Founders' Day Soup Supper Fundraiser. This could be you next year! :)*

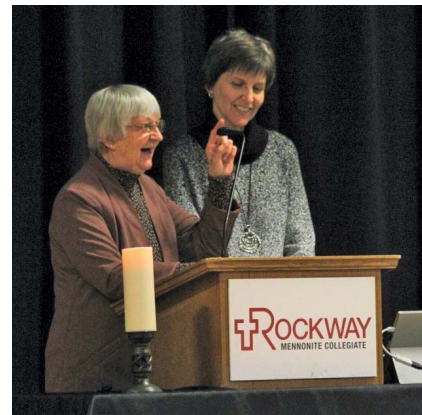


## FOUNDERS' DAY 2023

We kicked off [Founders' Day](#) with a special [morning chapel](#) featuring guest speakers, Ann L. Schultz '84 and her mother, Shirley Schultz '56. Chapel was held in Gym A to accommodate our invited guests including current families, alumni and friends. Ann

and Shirley did an outstanding job telling students about the history of Rockway while sharing funny stories from their time at the school. Led by our Music Department Head, Jeff Enns '90, our Senior Choir performed *Lily of the Valley* and *The Bird's Lullaby*.

When chapel came to a close, students were treated to a special Rockway-themed donut on their way back to class. Our invited guests made their way to the Assembly Area for a special [Tea & Pastry Reception](#) prepared by our Rockway Food Services Team and parent volunteers. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a beautiful assortment of delicious pastries, fruit and hot tea while being treated to an incredible performance by the Co-Artistic Director of the Toronto Concert Orchestra and Rockway alumni, Marcus Scholtes '02. Marcus delighted our audience with his remarkable piano performance of three numbers, *Ballade No. 3* and *Ballade No. 1* by Frederic Chopin and *Transcendental Etude No. 6 "Vision"* by Franz Liszt.



That evening, we hosted our first ever [Soup Supper and Hot Chocolate Fundraiser](#). Almost 250 people were in attendance and helped raise over \$3,000 towards May Trips Week. There were six soups available and people were free to try as many as they liked. The soups were delicious and proved to be a great conversation piece among attendees. There was a lot of discussion about which soups were the favourite and which ones people still needed to try. A ["Frozen"-themed](#)

[carnival](#) was held in the Silo with lots of games and prizes. Anna and Elsa from Enchanted Entertainment dropped by the ["Frozen"-themed student lounge](#) to sing, dance and play with all of the little ones in attendance.

The evening concluded with our second installment of the [Alumni Sports Challenge](#) this school year, featuring our Senior Boys' Basketball and Senior Girls' Volleyball Teams. The alumni may have prevailed against the Senior Boys, however, our Senior Girls rose to the challenge to defeat the alumnae and claim the trophy!

Founders' Day was a wonderful day of celebration and we are so grateful to everyone who joined us. [Thank you for your support and we hope to see you next year!](#)





## GOLF CLASSIC

Golfers of all ages and skill levels are welcome to join us on **Monday, May 29** as we host our **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Rockway Golf Classic** at one of the region's finest golf facilities, [Grey Silo Golf Club](#) in Waterloo. We will be introducing a number of **additional prize categories, in-round games and new sponsorship opportunities** that we believe will make our tournament more accessible, more inclusive and more fun for everyone involved!

Visit [www.rockway.ca/golf](http://www.rockway.ca/golf) to register now and avoid missing your chance to join in the fun! **Invite your family and friends to join you** (under 18 must have an adult sign up to play with them) but **be sure and register before the May 19 deadline.**

We have some great prizes available and all of the funds raised go towards our **Student Tuition Assistance Program**. To date, we have raised **over \$575,000 towards our Tuition Assistance Program** – a program that helps make the Rockway experience accessible to those who need support with their tuition.

At the time of printing we had 70 golfers registered. Join in the fun and help us hit 100!



*Three-time defending champions, Rob Klassen, Josh Klassen '11, Evan Bechtel '11 and Andrew Lichti '03. This is the team to beat!*

## ALUMNI BABY T-SHIRTS

**We have a new design for our baby t-shirts!**

Is there a new addition to your family? Let us know and we'll send a size 2T t-shirt for your Future Rockway Alumni.

Email Kristen at [alumni@rockway.ca](mailto:alumni@rockway.ca) with the date of birth, names of the baby and parents and mailing address.

We'd love for you to share a photo of you and/or the future alumni when you receive your t-shirt!



*Alanna (Zehr) Upfield '11 with her daughter, Hannah.*



## Mindful Money

MANAGEMENT

### ROCKWAY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP MAKING YOUR PLANNING EASIER

**Income Tax Reduction and  
Estate Tax Elimination Session**

**Wednesday, July 5: 10:30am to 11:30am  
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate**

**Lynn Whetham, CFP, will be sharing an overview of how people can address taxes, both now and for their estates.** This informative and even humorous session gives participants a sample of approaches both simple and complex that are encouraged by CRA. To answer specific questions, Lynn is available for free one-hour sessions to discuss YOUR situation and offers suggestions to take back to YOUR advisors.



**This workshop is offered at no cost.**

To register, please contact Kristen Hines by email: [kristenh@rockway.ca](mailto:kristenh@rockway.ca) or by calling: 519-743-5209 x3980

## ALUMNI MEMORIES

In the lead up to Founders' Day, we asked alumni and those with connections to Rockway to share some of their memories and stories of their Rockway experiences. We will be sharing some of those memories in this and upcoming issues of Reflections. Do you have a memory or story to contribute? Send your Rockway Memories to Kristen at [alumni@rockway.ca](mailto:alumni@rockway.ca).

### THREE GENERATIONS AT ROCKWAY

*As a student, I loved the opportunities that Rockway provided. When I attended Rockway, choir and orchestra were before school and sports were after school. This was perfect for me because I loved music and sports and would not have wanted to choose.*

*When I was in Gr. 12, our Senior Girls' Basketball team won our league and we went to CWOSSA. I remember Bob Shantz (our music teacher) saying that he hoped that we did well, but if we won CWOSSA and went to OFSAA it would be a huge problem because it would conflict with the Christmas concert! As it turned out, we did not win CWOSSA, so the concert went on without any issues. However, that year, our Senior Girls' Volleyball team won CWOSSA and went to OFSAA, so that was an amazing experience.*

*This year, my daughter is a grade 7 student and it has been so fantastic to watch her create her own memories on the basketball and volleyball courts and at the Christmas concert. She is the third generation in our family to attend Rockway and I am grateful for this school that has provided such amazing opportunities for decades.*

*~ Lori (Shantz) Peebles '87*



*Lori '87 and her mom, Dorothy Shantz '55, in their alumni hoodies after winning them in an online Alumni Facebook contest several years ago. Lori's daughter is a current student at Rockway.*

## ALUMNI NEWS

My sister, *Laura Wiebe '93*, tragically died of metastatic breast cancer on August 16, 2022. She graduated with her grade 12 diploma from Rockway in 1993. After Rockway, she worked for a while, then went on to get her PhD and worked as an Assistant Professor at Brock University and Professor at Sheridan College. Laura wrote many articles and papers, participated in various panels and even has a TED talk. She focused on Popular Culture, Feminism, Science Fiction, Heavy Metal and English Literature.

There is a Samick piano in Rockway's music practice rooms donated by my family to help pay for part of Laura's tuition so she could go to Rockway to complete high school as she had been struggling at Bluevale with bullying. Glen Woolner worked with my Dad to make that happen. She graduated from Rockway and went on to do very great things!

*~ Deanna Wiebe '85*



*Deanna '85 and Laura '93 Wiebe*



## STAY CONNECTED – GET INVOLVED

Stay connected and get involved by watching your email and visiting our website ([rockway.ca](http://rockway.ca)) for all the latest news and updates about events. Stay engaged by liking, sharing and following us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



### 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.

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's production of

Disney **FROZEN JR.**

**JUNE 7-10, 2023**

Evening Shows – 7:30 pm • Saturday Matinee – 2 pm  
Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at [www.rockway.ca](http://www.rockway.ca)

DISNEY FROZEN JR.  
is presented through special arrangements with Disney Theatrical International (DTI).  
All authorized performances and details are also supplied by DTI.  
[www.DTIShows.com](http://www.DTIShows.com)



## GRADUATION 2023

- **GRADE 8:**  
June 15, 2023 | 7:00 pm
- **GRADE 12:**  
June 24, 2023 | 3:30 pm

*Details to follow.*

save the date...  
**Spring concert**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**

Grade 7 & 8 – 6:45 pm

Grade 9-12 – 8:00 pm

**Rockway Gym – All are welcome!**

ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE'S

**28<sup>TH</sup> Annual**

**GOLF CLASSIC**

- **Monday, May 29, 2023**
- **Grey Silo Golf Club**

Register by May 19  
[www.rockway.ca/golf](http://www.rockway.ca/golf)

**SAVE THE DATE**

★ **NEW** ★

**Family Picnic & Outdoor Movie Night**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023**

*Details to follow.*

## Stay Connected

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

**Rockway Mennonite Collegiate**

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#LifeAtRockway

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