

Our

# REFLECTIONS

FALL 2024

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI NEWS

## CHOOSE TO JOIN US

A new school year is always filled with so much possibility. The school cycle is one of new beginnings and fresh starts; teachers, staff and students return with a sense of excitement and optimism. Rockway is no different.

While we may plan key events in advance, establish new programs and work behind the scenes (all with the intent to create opportunities for students), there is never any assurance that moments of connection will occur. That is because it is the human interaction within those moments we spend together that allows those deep connections to occur. In other words, the work of educational communities can only be accomplished when every stakeholder chooses to show up for, and engage with, one another. The best that we can do as a school is to work at setting the conditions for moments of human connection and for transformation to occur.

You, our alumni and friends, are a part of helping to make these moments happen. Every time you choose to come to Rockway for events like Connections Homecoming (Friday, October 18), Christmas Concert (Tuesday, December 3) or Founders' Day Celebrations (Friday, February 14), you are choosing to lean into the work of Rockway and are supporting and empowering our students. Particularly in a time when it is the norm to connect digitally, the simple act of sitting down with someone at an event like the Spaghetti Supper can be a powerful moment of connection. We teach our students the importance of community-building and service when we model showing up for each other and take time to prioritize human connection. It is what the Rockway community has been built on over many years.

We invite you to come back home to Rockway for more connection and deeper engagement this school year. Our new website makes it much easier for you to stay connected and get involved. Visit [rockway.ca/events](https://rockway.ca/events) to learn about upcoming events and/or sign up to volunteer. When you do come back home, please say hello. I personally look forward to meeting you! I want to express my gratitude for the ways that many of you already connect with Rockway and my excitement for meeting more of you who haven't been back for a while. You have contributed to the Rockway experience and will always be part of this special community.

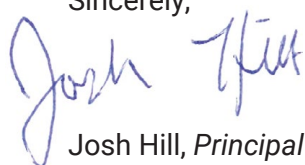


*Josh Hill, Principal*

## What's Inside?

- The Graduating Class of 2024: PAGE 2
- Rockway's New Vice-Principal & Solar Panels: PAGE 3
- Golf Classic & Family Picnic: PAGE 4
- Camelot & Sherlock: PAGES 5-6
- Connections Homecoming Night & Alumni Updates: PAGE 7
- Stay Connected: PAGE 8

Sincerely,

  
Josh Hill, Principal

# PRESENTING THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS

- **Abundance Canada Spirit of Generosity Award**  
– Ash Albrecht
- **Benjamin Eby / Salome Bauman Award**  
– Dominik Gedja and Felix Isert Bender
- **Bridging Cultures Award** – Angus Lee
- **Dennis Wikerd French Language Award**  
– Eden Suderman
- **English Award** – Kara Cornies
- **Governor General's Award**  
– Samantha Loberto
- **Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award** – Ramtha Lensung
- **Lobe Cross Cultural and Service Award**  
– Mavis Shum
- **Math & Science Academic Achievement Award**  
– Benjamin Watson
- **Peter Hallman Athletics Leadership Award**  
– Felix Isert Bender and Leah Unrau
- **The Waterloo Region Record's Outstanding Student Award** – Samantha Loberto and Emily Rak
- **Rockway Diploma Award** – Levi Bender
- **Valedictorian Award** – Matthew Martin
- **Visual Arts Award** – Sarah Burns and Betsy Chu
- **William Kruger Music Award** – John Waterfield



*Emily Rak, John Waterfield and Pax Sellar Voll performed during the grad banquet.*

Friends and family gathered on the afternoon of June 22 to celebrate with the class of 2024 as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas.

Celebrations continued in the evening at the Grad Banquet in the Assembly Area. As is our tradition, graduates were inducted into the Alumni Association in a moving ceremony led by Rockway Alumnae and teachers, Robyn Farlow '04, Jo Scott '05 and Lindsay Shantz '02.



## ROCKWAY WELCOMES A NEW VICE-PRINCIPAL

We are pleased to welcome **Stephanie Oliverio** as Rockway's new Vice-Principal.

Stephanie is a passionate educator with over 25 years of experience in teaching and leadership. Most recently, she served as a Special Education Consultant and Program Leader with the Waterloo Region District School Board, bringing substantial expertise in a variety of areas.

Stephanie is committed to a strong school community grounded in faith-based education and is dedicated to fostering student learning and growth in a positive, supportive environment.

In her new role at Rockway, she is most impressed with the number of students who enthusiastically engage in school life and the commitment of Faculty and Staff to ensure a caring and inclusive community.



## ROCKWAY HAS SOLAR PANELS!

Rockway is excited to announce a partnership with local solar energy company **VCT Group** and **CED Co-op** which is seeing almost 900 solar panels installed on Rockway's rooftop this fall.

This incredible partnership means that Rockway will enjoy clean, low-cost energy for years to come, benefiting both our students and our planet.

At the time of writing this article, installation of the panels had begun and we anticipate the project will be completed by the end of September. Please watch our [website](#) and social media channels for more information.



*Members of VCT Group, Rockway's admin team and our 2023-2024 Enviro-Social student leaders.*



*There was a lot of excitement at the end of August as the solar panels started arriving at the school.*

## SUN COMES THROUGH FOR THE ROCKWAY GOLF CLASSIC

Rockway's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic was held on Monday, May 27 at Grey Silo Golf Club in Waterloo. Over 70 golfers braved the rainy conditions to help raise money to support Tuition Assistance.

Unfortunately, our pre-competition contests, the Putting and Chipping Challenges, were cancelled due to heavy rain. Despite the poor weather, our golfers remained in great spirits. We were fortunate that the rain stopped long enough for us to play all 18 holes.

Congratulations to our champions pictured right: Andrew Lichti '03, Alex Taylor, Evan Bechtel '11 and Eric Winhold.



We want to send out a big thank you to everyone who signed up to play, donated or sponsored the tournament. **Thanks to your wonderful support, we were able to raise over \$26,000.** These important funds help make the Rockway experience more accessible to families in our community and we are grateful to each and every one of you for your support!

Our goal is to grow the golf tournament to over 100 participants. Please be sure and add **Monday, May 26, 2025** to your calendar and start putting your foursomes together! We hope you can join us. Stay tuned *fore* more information.



## THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Family Picnic & Outdoor Movie Night was held on Friday, June 14. Over 300 people were in attendance and we could not have asked for better weather to host this outdoor event.

Students, families, alumni and friends enjoyed carnival games, a dunk tank, bottomless snacks and drinks, a delicious family-style BBQ and an ice-cream truck. Our evening ended with an outdoor movie under the stars. Students and members of the Rockway community selected *How to Train your Dragon* as our movie. Well over 100 people stayed to watch the movie where they enjoyed the endless popcorn and, thankfully, no mosquitos!!

This annual event is a lot of fun and gives us the chance to say thank you for another wonderful year at Rockway. We hope you can join us next year! Please add next year's date, **Friday, June 13, 2025** to your calendar and watch [rockway.ca/events](https://rockway.ca/events) next May for more information.



## JOURNEY FROM ROCKWAY STUDENT TO DIRECTOR

*Written by Rebecca Penfold '00, Director*

In May, I had the pleasure of directing *Camelot and Camelittle*, the first grade 7 & 8 show since 2019. Directing *Camelot* gave me an opportunity to pause and think about the gift that drama gave to me as a Rockway student over 20 years ago.

In high school, the Rockway stage was a place where I found my own voice, felt a sense of belonging and developed a passion for drama that led me to pursue teaching. It's difficult to describe the sense of community that develops around a production. I felt like I finally found a safe space where I could explore my sense of self and my interest in acting with other students looking for the same thing. I was in shows like *The Sound of Music*, *Nicholas Nicklby*, *Oliver Twist*, *Joseph* and *The Farm Show* – all of which required the ensemble to develop the show together. A really significant moment for me, as a student, was being asked to stage manage a show. The director, Kim Freeman, called out gifts that she saw in me and that gave me the boost of confidence I needed to develop my leadership skills.

Ultimately, it was my love for stage management (not acting) that led me to pursue my BA in Theatre and English at Redeemer University College in Ancaster. It was one step towards my ultimate goal of becoming a teacher.

This spring, I don't know if I would have had the courage to step into the role of director without a gentle nudge. This call required dusting-off an old dream and the courage to step into a new role. The pride and satisfaction of completing a show is second to none and I was thrilled to be able to facilitate this kind of opportunity for students. I absolutely loved directing this group of students who bravely took the opportunity to develop new skills, make new friends and create memories that will last a lifetime.



*From rehearsals to costumes, props and stage and tech design, students and staff put many hours into preparing for their four performances at the end of May. Camelot and Camelittle was a fun, lighthearted play with witty banter and memorable characters that delighted audiences. Congratulations to all involved on a fantastic show!*

*(Photo credit: Jason Panda)*

# ROCKWAY STUDENTS TAKE ON CHALLENGING SHERLOCK STORIES

Written by Alan K. Sapp, Director

For the 2023–2024 school year, a group of the grade 9-12's set their hands, minds and spirits to bringing to life three Sherlock Holmes stories...“The Best of Sherlock Holmes” (two stories in one play) and “The Hound of the Baskervilles”.

This production presented a number of challenges and the drama students of Rockway rose to the occasion (no surprise there). One of the great delights that most of you don't get to see, or may not even know about, is the gradual character creation and confidence that grows in each of the students, as rehearsals go on and as the performances approach. It is a privilege and a joy!

For most of these students, they had never handled the kind of language structure that is present in the Holmes stories. I watched these young actors go from not being able to remember their dialogue to being able to handle it as if they were from England. And right along with their best version of an English accent as well.

Each story had its own unique challenge as well. The first story, “The Adventure of the Six Napoleons”, relied heavily on Holmes, Watson and Lestrade talking out the details and making sure we kept the plot clear for the audience. John, Zoe and Sophie did a remarkable job, along with the supporting cast.

“Sherlock is Dead” was a study in the relationship between Holmes and Watson, with fast, sharp and clever dialogue between the two. Kira and Alyssa were electric to watch in that show, with some fantastic cameo appearances.

Finally, “The Hound of the Baskervilles”, which was severely edited for the purpose of staging, was all about keeping the sequence of events and the numerous characters straight. It was also the piece with the most special effects. Trevyn and Vantha anchored the largest cast of the production.

And the show would never happen without a very large group of students and faculty who were the behind the scenes technicians, costumers, prop finders, production assistants and stage managers. Well done!



*Sherlock cast and crew. (Photo credit: Jason Panda)*

## COMMUNICATION CORNER

### Check Out Our New Website!

If you've recently visited [rockway.ca](http://rockway.ca), you will have noticed it looks very different! We're pretty excited for the new look and feel, and we hope that it makes for an easier navigation experience.

*Alumni, there is a section now dedicated to you that is more easily accessible than before!*

### Update Your Communication Preferences

**Help us reduce the number of misdirected pieces of mail going out.**

Contact Kristen Hines at [kristenh@rockway.ca](mailto:kristenh@rockway.ca) or 519-743-5209 x3980 to update the mailing and/or email addresses of you and your family members and/or request to switch from physical mailings to electronic (if you prefer). You can also update your information by going to [rockway.ca/alumni](http://rockway.ca/alumni) and clicking on Stay Connected.

Save the Date!

# CONNECTIONS

HOME COMING NIGHT 2024  
Friday, October 18

Come home to Rockway for our annual Connections Homecoming Night featuring our famous **Spaghetti Supper School Fundraiser** and **Alumni Sports Challenge**. Supper is \$25 per adult (11 and up) and \$15 per child (3 to 10).

Purchase in advance or pay by cash/cheque at the door

New this year, we will be launching an **Online Auction** during the Spaghetti Supper. Make sure you're here so you can be some of the first people to see what's available and put in the first bids! Some of the items available include admission for four to Scenic Caves Nature Adventures in Collingwood, movie passes, restaurant gift certificates, Chicopee Tube Park passes and a 3-night stay at Lookout Domes in Nova Scotia.



### Do you have a new item, gift card or experience to donate?

Contact Chris Ainsworth, Director of Advancement, at [chrisa@rockway.ca](mailto:chrisa@rockway.ca) or phone 519-743-5209 x3011.

All proceeds raised from the Spaghetti Supper and Online Auction will go to the Go Rockway! Annual Fund (proceeds from the Founders' Day Soup Supper will continue to go towards Trips Week). For more information about the Annual Fund and Rockway's other fundraising priorities visit [rockway.ca/support](https://rockway.ca/support)

Visit [rockway.ca/events](https://rockway.ca/events) and click the Connections Event Card for more information and to purchase your spaghetti.

## ALUMNI NEWS

We love hearing from our alumni! If you have an update to share, please email [alumni@rockway.ca](mailto:alumni@rockway.ca).

Congratulations to **Jeff '08** and **Vanessa '11 Wyngaarden** (née Snyder-Penner) on the birth of their first child, Misha, who was born this July. Your Future Alumni baby t-shirt is on its way!

Have you welcomed a new member to your family? Let us know and we'll send a size 2T t-shirt for the future Rockway alumni! Visit [rockway.ca/alumni](https://rockway.ca/alumni) and click on the Alumni Baby T-Shirts card to request your shirt.

When you receive the t-shirt, we'd love for you to share a photo of you and/or your little future alumni!





## STAY CONNECTED – GET INVOLVED

Stay connected and get involved by watching your email and visiting our website ([rockway.ca/events](http://rockway.ca/events)) for all the latest news and updates about upcoming events. Engage with us online by liking, sharing and following us on our **Facebook** and **Instagram** accounts. Check out our all-school videos on **YouTube**!



### 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:

#### Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

110 Doon Road  
Kitchener, Ontario  
N2G 3C8

T: 519-743-5209

F: 519-743-5935

[office@rockway.ca](mailto:office@rockway.ca)

[www.rockway.ca](http://www.rockway.ca)

Principal: Josh Hill

Charitable Number: 119122091RR001



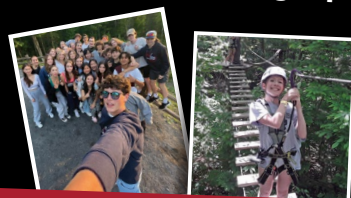
#LifeatRockway

Join us...  
ONLINE!

### ROCKWAY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Wednesday, November 20, 2024
- 7:30 pm on ZOOM
- visit [rockway.ca/events](http://rockway.ca/events) for full details
- email [agm@rockway.ca](mailto:agm@rockway.ca) to RSVP

### Grades 7-12 DISCOVER ROCKWAY November 7, 2024 @ 7 pm



visit [rockway.ca/events](http://rockway.ca/events) for full details

### CONNECTIONS HOMECOMING NIGHT Friday, October 18, 2024

visit [rockway.ca/events](http://rockway.ca/events) for full details



### • ROCKWAY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

- Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
7:30 pm @ Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

### • 2024-2025 CHURCH VISIT SCHEDULE

- November 10, 2024:  
Senior Choir @ Hillcrest Mennonite
- November 17, 2024:  
Grade 10 Choir @ Stirling Avenue Mennonite
- March 23, 2025:  
Senior Choir @ Erb Street Mennonite
- April 6, 2025:  
Grade 10 Choir @ Shantz Mennonite
- April 27, 2025:  
Senior Choir @ Waterloo North Mennonite

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](mailto:advancement@rockway.ca), [alumni@rockway.ca](mailto:alumni@rockway.ca) or 519-743-5209 x3011. Thank you.

