

Our

REFLECTIONS

FALL 2025

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI NEWS

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, STRENGTHENING ROCKWAY

As I reflect on my first year as Principal at Rockway, I am amazed at how quickly the year went. It was a year full of exciting new initiatives, but also marked by tragedy. Through it all, I can confidently say that it has been the greatest privilege of my professional career to be the Principal of this amazing school. The reality is that Rockway is far more than a school. It is a place of community connection, learning and empowerment.

I saw this first hand this year as I met with donors; inviting their participation in the 80th Capital Campaign – Protect This Barn. I heard, and was inspired by, the impact that Rockway has had in people's lives over the years. It was a privilege for me to meet our alumni and donors, to hear their stories of transformation and to talk about the exciting direction the school is headed. This is one of the aspects of my role that I have enjoyed most and I am grateful for the overwhelming generosity of our community as we near our capital campaign goal.

This summer, I also reflected on the diverse stakeholders that I have had the privilege of connecting with in my role. Whether it is chatting with students, working with teachers on projects, leading visioning sessions with the admin team, meeting with alumni and donors, developing new systems with staff, connecting with parents, meeting with MCEC pastors or exploring community partnerships, the opportunity to be connecting with so many stakeholders is a gift. I value building relationships with people and know that the key to the success of Rockway is rooted in building positive relationships.

I have also done some reflecting this summer on the importance of taking time to pause and create open space for new ideas to form/emerge, as well as making time to care for oneself. You may recall from a previous Reflections article, one of Rockway's Five Priorities is a focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing and, specifically, helping our students find balance in their lives. To further support our commitment, we have restructured Student Services and created a Student Support Team. The former Student Services offices will now be known as Guidance. This is where students will go to receive support in such things as course selection and graduation pathways. A new space has been created in room 107/109 called "The Hub" where students will find our Resource Department as well as our new Youth Well-being Lead. Together, they will provide academic, social and personal support to students. I'm excited about these changes and look forward to continuing our commitment to supporting student wellbeing at Rockway.

As we begin a new school year, I do so with deep gratitude; for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and donors who make Rockway such a vibrant community. Together we continue to build a place where learning, connection and care are at the heart of all we do. I look forward with hope and anticipation to all that this year will hold.



Principal Josh Hill with the Student Support Team in the new Hub space (left to right): Margaret Andres, Alison Gilbert, Josh Hill, Lynn Bergsma Friesen, Renée Petit-Pas, A.J. Snider.

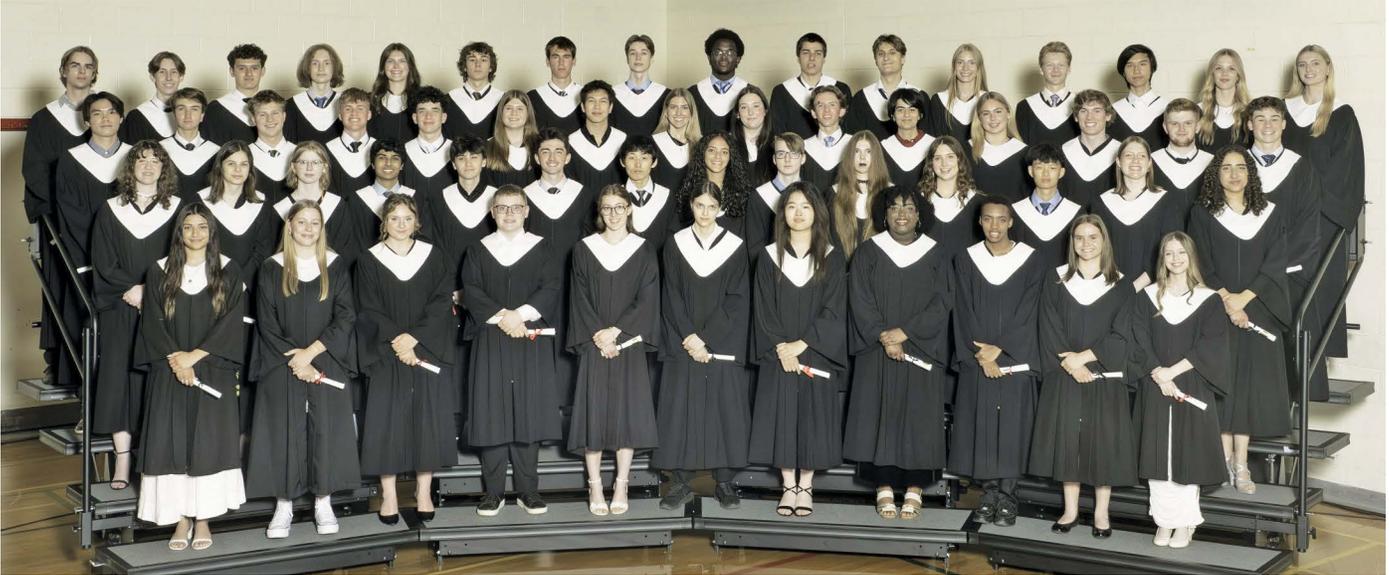
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ROCKWAY
MENNONITE COLLEGIATE

Josh Hill, Principal

PRESENTING THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS

- **Abundance Canada Spirit of Generosity Award**
– Stella Halim
- **Benjamin Eby / Salome Bauman Award**
– Kaesha Cornies and Suri Schmidt
- **Bridging Cultures Award – Enoch Lau**
- **Citizenship Award** – Jaden Alonge, Zoe Fretz Corlis, Elek Katona and Tina Kaus
- **Dennis Wikerd French Language Award**
– Zoya Enns
- **English Award** – Tina Kaus
- **Governor General's Award** – Karan Gupta
- **Leaders of Tomorrow Award** – Kaesha Cornies
- **Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award** – Timothy Davison
- **Lobe Cross Cultural and Service Award**
– Norah Leis
- **Math & Science Academic Achievement Award**
– Karan Gupta
- **Outstanding Student Award**
– Mateo Castano and Alyssa Panda
- **Peter Hallman Athletics Leadership Award**
– Micah Janzen
- **Rockway Diploma Award**
– Liliana Haddad and Colin VanderMeer
- **Schulich Leader Award** – Mateo Castano
- **Valedictorian Award** – Karan Gupta
- **Visual Arts Award** – Zoya Enns
- **William Kruger Music Award** – Alyssa Panda



On Saturday, June 21, family and friends of our grade 12 students, alongside Rockway faculty and staff, gathered in Gyms B and C to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2025. The celebration continued that evening at the Graduation Banquet, where stories were shared, achievements were recognized and, through the lighting of candles, our graduates were formally welcomed into the Rockway Alumni family.

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2025!

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

On May 2, we honoured the founding of our school 80 years ago with a special celebration at Rockway. That morning, we invited Mary Groh '49, a member of the first graduating class, along with our former Athletics Director, Ray Boehm '84, to join us for a special morning chapel. Principal Josh Hill asked Mary and Ray to reflect on their time at Rockway and the impact it has had on their lives. It was wonderful hearing about the early days of Rockway, the changes that have taken place over the years and how many things have stayed the same. Mary had the audience rolling in laughter with some of her stories.



Following their conversation, Mr. Hill launched the public phase of Rockway's *Protect this Barn* Capital Campaign. There was a huge cheer from the students as he made the announcement and unveiled the project renderings, shared the funds raised to date and outlined the timeline for the work ahead. After chapel, guests made their way to the Assembly Area to enjoy delicious pastries and fellowship with the opportunity to look at the project renderings up close.

Later that evening, we hosted the third annual Soup Supper Fundraiser. We had over 250 people in attendance and raised over \$3,475 towards Trips Week. Thank you!

Following the Soup Supper, the bleachers filled up and we had two fantastic contests between our students and alumni/alumnae. Basketball was up first. The Senior Boys' Team put forth a great effort but were defeated by a strong group of alumni. Following the Senior Boys' game was our Senior Girls' Volleyball Team taking on our team of alumnae. This was a very close match but, ultimately, our Senior Girls pulled out the victory. Thank you to all of our student athletes, alumni and alumnae for an exciting evening!

An event of this magnitude takes a lot of hands to be successful. A big thank you to our volunteers, students, faculty, staff and everyone who was able to join us! We hope to see you next year on **Friday, February 20!**



THE ROCKWAY ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC TURNED 30

On Monday, May 26, over 90 golfers joined us at Grey Silo Golf Club in Waterloo for the 30th Annual Rockway Golf Classic. This incredible tradition, started by a very dedicated and supportive group of Rockway community members, has raised over \$700,000 towards our Tuition Assistance Program since its humble beginnings in 1996. We are extremely grateful to the visionaries of this tournament for all of their support over the years and look forward to celebrating for many more years to come.

The weather cooperated and we were able to have a wonderful day on the course. Participants were able to take part in our Putting and Chipping Challenges ahead of the tournament. In addition, we added some new contests,



games and more ways to win. Adding a second “flight” added another layer of competition to our tournament. Golfers had the option of selecting Flight A (Skilled) or Flight B (Recreational) which helped to level the playing field amongst our competitors. To ensure all levels of golfers can participate, we will be adding a third flight next year.

Thanks to the generous support of our incredible sponsors, donors and the record number of participants this year, \$34,000 was raised. These funds go toward Rockway’s Tuition Assistance – a program that helps make the Rockway experience more accessible to families in our region. We hope you can join us next year for the 31st Annual Rockway Golf Classic. Please add **Monday, May 25, 2026**, to your calendar. Join us at Grey Silo next year!

RUNNING ON SUNSHINE

The turnout for Rockway’s BBQ Bash & Solar Fest, our last event of the school year, was incredible, with over 500 people in attendance! Rockway’s Solar Band provided a feel-good energy while families mingled, enjoyed their BBQ meal and participated in the fun games and activities. This event is a small way of saying that you to the entire Rockway community for another amazing year of support.

This year, new Rockway students and their families were invited to join us. It was a great opportunity for them to meet other members of the Rockway community before their first day in September.

Following the BBQ, we had the official launch of Rockway’s All-School Video, *Running on Sunshine*, before everyone curled up under their blankets to watch a movie under the stars. This year, our students voted for *Back to the Future* and it turned out to be our biggest crowd to date, with over 150 people staying to watch. It was fun to see an old classic win the popular vote!

Please add **Friday, June 12, 2026**, to your calendar and be sure to join us for our next BBQ Bash. Everyone is welcome!



PROTECT THIS BARN.



We are humbled at the remarkable support given to us through our 80th Anniversary Capital Campaign – *Protect this Barn!* The love for this school, and care for our facilities, became very clear with the generous donations made in such a short period of time. When you consider the fact that we started our school year unaware that we would be moving forward with a capital campaign, it is incredible that in August we were already within \$200,000 of our goal of raising \$2.2 million.

Even though we have not quite finished raising the necessary funds, construction began this past summer with the installation of our moveable wall which separates Gym A from Gym BC. With a number of companies to choose from, a Canadian-based company, Extreme Partitions, was selected and we are very happy with the finished product. The balance of the work, including updating our washrooms and changerooms, adding the new accessible meeting room, accessible washroom and upstairs weight room, along with relocating the Athletics office, will all take place next summer. It is an ambitious timeline but one we are confident will be met in time for the first day of classes.

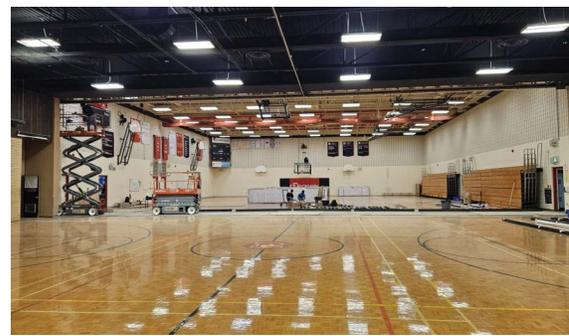
There is still time to get involved with the capital campaign. During the 80th Anniversary celebrations, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of Susan '71 and David Seyler who came forward to make a \$50,000 donation towards the campaign. Their hope was that by making this donation they could inspire others to come forward and join them in helping us raise the last \$200,000 of our \$2.2 million goal. There are a number of ways for you to show your support. We are purchasing all new bleacher seats for Gyms A, B and C and are selling the naming rights to individual seats. If you would like to name a seat on behalf of your family, a loved one, after a business or on behalf of your graduating year, the cost is \$250 and the plaque will remain attached to your seat for the life of the new bleachers.

In honour of our 80th Anniversary, you could be part of our Rockway “R” puzzle, made up of 80 individual pieces. The puzzle will be installed in the north hallway outside of the entrance to Gym BC where it will remain in perpetuity. Similar to our bleacher seats, donors can purchase on behalf of their family, loved one, business or graduating year. The cost is \$1,000 and a tax receipt will be provided for the full amount.

A third option to consider is our Major Donor Display. Any donation of \$5,000 or more will be recognized, prominently displayed in the north hallway, and remain in perpetuity. Similar to our Donor Wall recognizing the fundraising efforts from our Lead Us Onward Campaign, the Major Donor Display will be designed to reflect the space and honour the significant contributions from the Rockway community.

For more information about the campaign and the different ways to support, please visit:

<https://rockway.ca/support/campaign/>



The new moveable wall was installed in August before the start of the new school year.

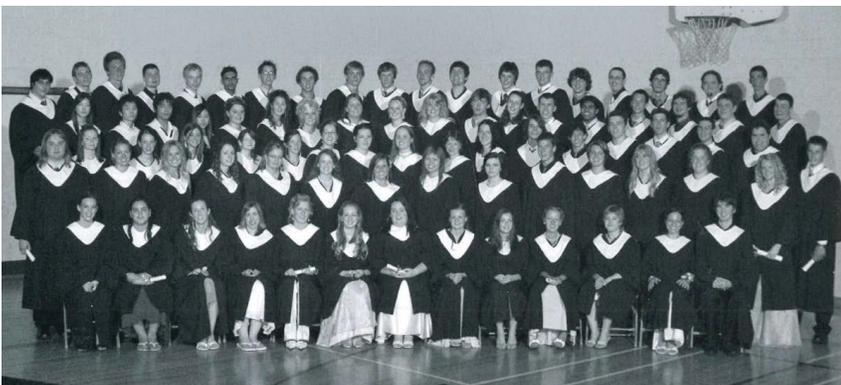


ALUMNI REUNIONS



Class of 1955: Please join us on Friday, October 17 during *Connections: Homecoming Night* for a class reunion. A room will be provided for you to enjoy the Spaghetti Supper meal together and reminisce. For more information please contact Kristen Hines at alumni@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3980.

Class of 1965: Come together to celebrate 60 years! An event has been planned for the evening of Saturday, October 18, 2025, in Waterloo by organizing committee, Doreen Shantz, Arlene Groh and Bob Snyder. If you didn't receive your invitation, contact Kristen Hines at alumni@rockway.ca to get connected with the committee.



Class of 2005: It's your turn to open your Time Capsule! Come home for *Connections: Homecoming Night* on Friday, October 17, 2025. Meet up with past classmates and catch up on life while enjoying a delicious Spaghetti Supper. Then, together read what your younger selves had to say about life and the future.

Thinking about reconnecting with your classmates? Whether it's a casual coffee meet-up or a large gathering at *Connections: Homecoming Night*, we'd love to help make it happen! Reach out to Kristen Hines at alumni@rockway.ca to help you get started.

COMMUNICATION CORNER

Make the Switch to Digital

Switching to digital helps us care for the environment and reduces costs so more resources can be directed to student needs. **Starting this year, the Winter edition of Reflections will be available online only.**

To make the switch, request a notification for the Winter edition or update your contact information, please reach out to Kristen Hines at alumni@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3980.

Join us!

C7RONNECTIONS

HOME COMING NIGHT

Friday, October 17 **2025**



Come home to Rockway for our annual Connections: Homecoming Night featuring our famous **Spaghetti Supper** and **Alumni Sports Challenge**.

Supper is \$25 per adult (11+) and \$15 per child (3 to 10 / under 3 eat free)



Once again, our Online Auction will be launched during the Spaghetti Supper. Find out what items are available this year and put in the first bids. Some of the items this year include a new tree installation from Green Ventures Landscape Care and tickets to the KW Titans and Stratford Festival, along with gift cards for local restaurants and attractions.

Do you have a new item, gift card or experience to donate? Contact Chris Ainsworth, Director of Advancement, at chrisa@rockway.ca or phone 519-743-5209 x3011. All proceeds raised from the Spaghetti Supper and Online Auction will support the Go Rockway! Annual Fund.

Visit www.rockway.ca/events and click on the *Connections* event for more information and to purchase your spaghetti.



STAY CONNECTED – GET INVOLVED

Stay connected and get involved by watching your email and visiting our website (rockway.ca/events) for all the latest news and updates about events. Stay engaged 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:

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Principal: Josh Hill

Charitable Number: 119122091RR0001



#LifeAtRockway

Join us!
CONNECTIONS
HOMECOMING NIGHT **2025**
Friday, October 17
LEARN MORE AT rockway.ca/events

ROCKWAY
MENNONITE COLLEGIATE
DISCOVER ROCKWAY
GRADES 7-12 *Join us!*
Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 7 pm
RSVP at
rockway.ca/events

Beauty IN THE ORDINARY
Join us...
Rockway's Annual General Meeting
ONLINE!
• Wednesday, November 19, 2025 | 7:30 pm
• ZOOM
LEARN MORE AT rockway.ca/events

ROCKWAY MUSIC
• **ROCKWAY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
• Tuesday, December 9, 2025
7:30 pm @ Rockway Mennonite Collegiate
• **2025-2026 CHURCH VISIT SCHEDULE**
• November 16, 2025:
Grade 10 Choir @ Breslau Mennonite Church
• March 8, 2026:
Senior Choir @ Bloomingdale Mennonite Church
• March 29, 2026:
Grade 10 Choir @ Steinmann Mennonite Church
• April 12, 2026:
Senior Choir @ St. Jacobs Mennonite Church

