





SY25-26

ENEWSLETTER

PTO DISTRIBUTED NEWSLETTER
STAY UP TO DATE REGARDING PTO
MEETINGS & EVENTS AS WELL AS
OTHER COMMUNITY UPDATES.

This communication is developed and distributed by Friends of Ray Board Members. These communications are not reviewed and/or edited by the staff at William H. Ray Elementary School.

www.friendsofrayschool.com



This communication is developed and distributed by Friends of Ray School Board of Directors. This newsletter is not edited and/or reviewed by the staff at Ray Elementary. Please visit the [Ray school website](#) for direct communication and updates from the school.

CPS Calendar



GENERAL

UPDATES



August is National Wellness Month!

This month is all about building healthy habits together as a family. Here are a few quick tips to support your child’s wellness:

- **Move together:** Take a family walk, dance break, or bike ride.
- **Fuel up:** Pack colorful fruits and veggies for snacks and meals.
- **Rest well:** Aim for consistent bedtime routines to support focus and energy.
- **Breathe & relax:** Practice a few deep breaths or a short stretch together after a busy day.

Small steps add up! Let’s make wellness a family priority this month and beyond! ☐

Best Practices for Drop-Off & Pick-Up



1 Be Patient

Wait in line. Avoid cutting other parents/families off.

2 Be Mindful of Pedestrians

Be sure to make sure you watch for students/families in the crosswalk.

3 Avoid Double Parking

Avoid blocking other cars in areas around the school. Be mindful of safety concerns in the event that other people need to move.

4 Make Sure Cars/People Are Able to Move

To ensure others safety leave room for others to effectively move through driving AND walking spaces.

5 Be Kind & Respectful



UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

HAPPENING TODAY!!! DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!!!

Join us for popcorn and sno-cones as we learn more about the PTO and meet the Ray Warrior community.

Ray Gear/Merchandise will be available for purchase. Parents will also be entered in a raffle to win Ray gear!

FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL

MEET & GREET

PTO GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH | 04:00 - 5:30 PM
WILLIAM H. RAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NORTH PLAYGROUND

 www.friendsofrayschool.com
Email: friendsofraypto@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL PTO 2025-2026

- AUG 28** **MEET & GREET GENERAL MEETING**
4:00 PM RAY SCHOOL NORTH PLAYGROUND
POPCORN & SNO-CONES | BUDGET REVIEW
- SEPT 7** **PRE K AND K FAMILY PLAY DATE**
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (BIXLER PARK)
- SEPT 14** **1ST & 2ND GRADE FAMILY PLAY DATE**
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (BIXLER PARK)
- SEPT 25** **GENERAL MEETING**
8:00 PM (VIRTUAL) | BUDGET VOTE
 Google Meet  **SCAN TO JOIN THE MEETING**
- OCT 23** **GENERAL MEETING**
8:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
 Google Meet  **SCAN TO JOIN THE MEETING**
- NOV 6** **CULTURAL HERITAGE & CULINARY COOKING NIGHT**
4:00 PM | RAY LUNCHROOM | GENERAL MEETING
TENTATIVE DATE MAY CHANGE
- DEC 11** **CINEMA & HOT CHOCOLATE GENERAL MEETING**
4:00 PM | RAY AUDITORIUM
TENTATIVE DATE MAY CHANGE

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR EVENTS?
SCAN HERE! 

 **MORE INFO:** WWW.FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOL.COM

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

RAY WARRIOR GEAR & MERCHANDISE



PURCHASE YOUR GEAR TODAY!



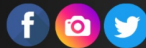
PRICE LIST

Short Sleeve Tees	\$17
Long Sleeve Tees	\$23
Trucker Hats	\$23
Yard/Window Sign	\$5

Show Your
RAY WARRIOR
PRIDE!



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ORDER!



Funds collected go towards additional resources and engagement events for William H. Ray School.
www.friendsofrayschool.com

Show Your Ray Warrior Pride!

Families, it's time to represent the Ray Warriors of William H. Ray Elementary with spirit wear that celebrates our amazing school community! We've got a great selection of shirts, hats, and more!

Let's fill the halls (and the neighborhood!) with Ray Warrior spirit. Please complete the form below to order your Ray gear.

A confirmation email with next steps for payment/pick up will be sent once the order form is submitted.

In-Person purchase date: Thursday, August 28th at 4PM

[Order Here](#)



Shop for holiday cards, photo gifts, and more. With code "FUNDRAISEFRIENDS OFRAY", you'll receive a 20% discount and Friends of Ray School will receive 15% back on every purchase.

[Visit our Website](#)

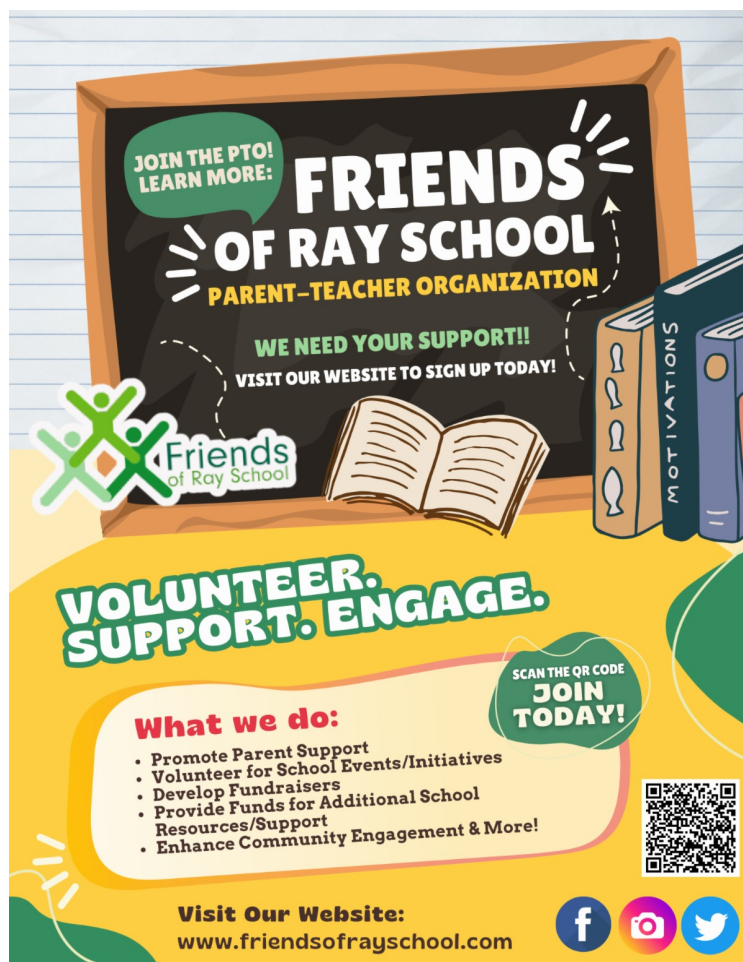
mabel's labels.

Search for Friends of Ray School PTO. Each order of labels, return address stamps, ornaments, and more, Friends of Ray School will receive 20% of the purchase price.

[Visit our Website](#)



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



Join the Friends of Ray School Parent-Teacher Organization and make a meaningful impact in our school community!

As a member, you'll have the opportunity to connect with other parents, collaborate with teachers and staff, and support initiatives that directly benefit our students.

While there is a suggested membership donation of \$20, this contribution is not required to join as a general member. However, it is necessary for voting privileges and eligibility to serve on the board.

Your support—financial or otherwise—helps fund essential programs, events, and resources that enrich the educational experience at Ray School.

Get involved and help us make a difference!

[Membership Form Here](#)



VOLUNTEER UPDATES



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER PROCESS

All school volunteers are required to complete the CPS Volunteer Application form.

Interested in volunteering? Scan the QR code and a PTO Board member will reach out with more information to get you started!



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO.
www.friendsofrayschool.com



Interested in volunteering for school-based and/or PTO school events? We would love to have you on our team! Please click the button below to complete the Friends of Ray School Volunteer Interest Form.

Please note that you will also need to complete the CPS Volunteer Application. Once we receive your interest form we will contact you with additional details for the volunteer process.

[Volunteer Interest Form](#)



COMMUNITY EVENTS

HYDE PARK SCHOOL OF DANCE

Training
Performance
Community

Offering inclusive dance education since 1993

- ★ Classes for ages 18 months to 60+ years
- ★ From Ballet and Modern to Breakin' and West African dance, there's a class for everyone
- ★ New this year:
 - Sunday classes
 - Yoga (Fri, Sun)
 - Musical Theater (10+)
 - Intro to Ballet (9+)
- ★ Enroll now to perform in *The Nutcracker* (ages 7+) or holiday pre-show (ages 4-6)



Register now at
hydeparkdance.org



773 493 8498 | 5650 S Woodlawn Ave | admin@hydeparkdance.org



06
26

JORDAN J. ADAMS



07
10

THADDEUS TUKES



07
24

HECTOR SILVEIRA



08
07

JOYCE HURLEY WITH PARK AND RIDE



08
21

SIMONE GREEN



09
04

MARQUEAL JORDAN



09
18

"J GRANT EXPERIENCE"

DOORS 5PM / SHOW 6PM

FREE
ADMISSION

DUSUMMER

Thursdays

OUTDOOR MUSIC SERIES

JUNE 26 - SEPTEMBER 18

DUSABLE MUSEUM
ROUNDHOUSE PLAZA

751 EAST 57TH STREET / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

EVENTS.EVENTNOIRE.COM/E/DUSUMMER25



@BLACKSTONEBIKES

WWW.BLACKSTONEBIKES.ORG

Got an unused bike?

DONATE
IT TO US!

YOUR DONATION WILL SUPPORT:

Community
Open Shop

Youth Education
Programs
including after-school,
spring break, and
summer camps

Youth Race
Team

HOW TO DONATE:

Drop-Off at
Blackstone Bicycle Works
6100 S Blackstone Ave
Chicago IL 60637
773-241-6044

Pick-Up:
Have several bikes?
We may be able to
arrange a pickup.

Contact us:
shop@experimentalstation.org
to learn more or schedule a donation!

BLACKSTONE
BICYCLE
WORKS

A Program of
experimental
station

RAY WARRIOR
PROUD

LEARN MORE HERE:
www.ray.cps.edu
www.friendsofrayschool.com



WILLIAM H. RAY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2025 - 2026
Board of Directors

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Marketing/Communications
- Janasha Eakins
Vice President
- Rebecca Gorges
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- Elizabeth Edwards
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Fundraising Co-Chair
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- Toshia Booker
Volunteer Chair
- Benjamin Walker
Website Co-Manager
- Gayle Harris-Neely
Principal
- Stacy Horgan
Teacher
- Heather Hall
Teacher
- Ciara Weaver
Teacher

FRIENDS OF **RAY**

501 (c) (3) PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

VOLUNTEER | SUPPORT | ENGAGE
HELP US BUILD THE RAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

JOIN THE PTO TODAY!

WHAT WE DO:

- Promote Parent Support
- Volunteer for School Events/Initiatives
- Develop Fundraisers
- Raise Funds to Provide Additional Resources/Support
- Enhance Community Engagement & More!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW
YOU CAN JOIN/SUPPORT!

SCAN HERE



Friends
of Ray School

www.friendsofrayschool.com

Interested in joining the Friends of Ray School Board of Directors? Email us today for more details! We need your support!

STAY CONNECTED

FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL

FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOLPTO

FRIENDSOFRAYPTO

LIKE. SHARE. FOLLOW.

www.friendsofrayschool.com

Friends of Ray School
@FriendsOfRayPTO
501 (c) (3) Organization serving in the Hyde Park community to support William H. Ray Elementary of Ray School PTO
Chicago, IL Joined May 2018
73 Following 142 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Friends of Ray School @Friends...
Help us grow!!! Join the PTO today! #Support #FriendsOfRaySchool

FRIENDS OF RAY
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION
JOIN THE PTO

[Our Website](#)

[School Website](#)

[Ray Gear](#)

[Contact](#)

[GoCPS](#)

Friends of Ray School PTO is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) that supports the students, faculty, and administration of William H. Ray Elementary School through fundraising and organizing community-building events throughout the year.

All Ray families and community members are welcome and encouraged to join the Ray PTO in supporting our school. Our mission is to supplement the limited funding allotted to Ray through the Chicago Public School system. All funds raised are used to support recess, enrich the curriculum at each grade level, purchase classroom supplies, and sponsor community events and meetings.

Interested in unsubscribing? Click the 'Unsubscribe' link at the bottom of this email!





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