





SY25-26

NEWSLETTER

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



ROSH
HASHANAH

Have a Sweet and
Happy Jewish New Year!





UPCOMING
PTO EVENTS

CHAT N'SNACK SERIES
QUARTERLY ENGAGEMENT

JOIN US

FAMILY
CONNECTION
WITH THE
PRINCIPAL

CONNECT WITH US:

- CHAT WITH PRINCIPAL NEELY
- MEET SCHOOL STAFF
- VOLUNTEER APP SUPPORT
- PARENT PORTAL SUPPORT

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24TH

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
RAY SCHOOL ROOM 112

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Visit our website
www.friendsofrayschool.com

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PTO GENERAL
MEETING

THURS. SEPT. 25, 2025
VIRTUAL

CLICK THE LINK BELOW

MEETING DETAILS

7 PM | GOOGLE MEET

JOIN THE MEETING:
MEET.GOOGLE.COM/ENO-FSUT-CJI

www.friendsofrayschool.com

QR CODE

SCAN THE QR CODE

Join the Meeting Here

UPCOMING
EVENTS

2025-2026

SEPT 19

RAY GEAR POP-UP
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (RAY NORTH PLAYGROUND)
PURCHASE YOUR RAY GEAR! PRESALE AVAILABLE

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SUPPORT
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM or 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Visit us in the main office to make sure your application is submitted and to submit a photocopy of your ID.

SEPT 23-24

SEPT 24

FAMILY CONNECTION
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (RAY SCHOOL - RM. 112)
CONNECT WITH THE PRINCIPAL & SCHOOL STAFF

GENERAL MEETING
7:00 PM (VIRTUAL) | BUDGET VOTE
Google Meet

SEPT 25

OCT 23

GENERAL MEETING
7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
Google Meet

CULTURAL HERITAGE & CULINARY COOKING NIGHT
4:00 PM | RAY LUNCHROOM | GENERAL MEETING
TENTATIVE DATE MAY CHANGE

NOV 6

DEC 11

CINEMA & HOT CHOCOLATE GENERAL MEETING
4:00 PM | RAY AUDITORIUM
TENTATIVE DATE MAY CHANGE

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR EVENTS?
SCAN HERE!

QR CODE

MORE INFO:

WWW.FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOL.COM

Friends
of Ray School

VOLUNTEER
UPDATES

STRONGER TOGETHER

PARENT SPOTLIGHT



Bill Housewright
Raise A Glass Member

**"INVESTING IN CHILDREN IS INVESTING IN A
BRIGHTER TOMORROW."**

WWW.FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOL.COM

A heartfelt thank you to Bill Housewright for your continued support of Friends of Ray School! From volunteering at engagement events to lending a hand with tabling, you consistently go above and beyond to strengthen our efforts and build community at Ray. We are truly grateful for your time, energy, and dedication.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER PROCESS

All school volunteers are required to complete the CPS Volunteer Application form, **EVERY YEAR**.

Interested in volunteering?
Scan the QR code!

Steps to becoming a CPS-approved volunteer:

1. View the CPS Volunteer Policy
2. Complete the Online Application Form.
3. Include 'Ray' as the school where you plan to volunteer on your application.
4. Visit the main office in person to submit a photocopy of your ID.
5. Monitor your email for a reply from CPS confirming your Volunteer status.

CALL for VOLUNTEERS



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

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



For other questions about the volunteer process and your application, contact:
volunteer@cps.edu, or call
773-553-1544.

You can also email our
Volunteer Chair, Toshia Booker
for additional support:
friendsofrayptovolunteers@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL | HYDE PARK
"INVESTING IN CHILDREN IS INVESTING
IN A BRIGHTER TOMORROW."



SY 2026

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE CONTACT US DIRECTLY IF INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

TENTATIVE DATES - MAY CHANGE AS NEEDED

- RAY GEAR SALES POP UP - FRIDAY, SEPT. 19 (Tentative)
- VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SUPPORT - SEPT. 23 - WED. SEPT. 24 (AVAILABLE TIMES: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM)
- FALL BLOCK PARTY - SATURDAY, OCT. 4
- OPEN HOUSE - WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8
- CULTURAL HERITAGE NIGHT - THURSDAY, NOV. 6
- CINEMA & HOT CHOCOLATE - THURSDAY, DEC. 11
- RAY GEAR SALES POP UP - JANUARY (TBD)
- BHM DINNER & CELEBRATION - THURSDAY, FEB. 19
- RAISE A GLASS - YEAR ROUND PLANNING
- RAISE A GLASS EVENT - MARCH (TBD)
- WALKATHON FUNDRAISER - THURSDAY, APRIL 23
- ROOM PARENT LIAISONS - YEAR ROUND (MORE DETAILS COMING SOON)

BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE CPS APPLICATION FOR LEVEL II CLEARANCE. ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOR EACH EVENT WILL BE SHARED VIA EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND ENEWS.

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



[Complete the CPS Application Here](#)



Raise a Glass for Ray Committee

Learn more about Ray's largest fundraiser and parents-night-out event, Raise a Glass for Ray, and ways to plug in. If you're enthusiastic about building community at Ray and have some time and energy to give back, please join us.

Doubting that a PTO event can be fun? Here are photos from last year's event (yes, it was 90's themed): **[View the photos by clicking the button below.](#)**

Questions or can't make it but want to get involved?

Text Katie Yocum Musisi (202-413-0120) or Bill Housewright (312-550-5065).

[View Photos Here](#)

RAY WARRIOR GEAR & MERCHANDISE



PURCHASE YOUR GEAR TODAY!



PRICE LIST

Short Sleeve Tees	\$17 - \$18
Long Sleeve Tees	\$23
Pullover/Zip-Ups	(Price Varies)
Trucker Hats	\$23
Yard/Window Sign	\$5

Show Your
RAY WARRIOR
PRIDE!

Interested in a sold out item?

Presale Orders Available

Complete the order form. Additional details will be provided upon receiving new inventory of ordered items.



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!

Get Field Trip Ready!!

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.

Items currently not in stock are available for purchase as presale orders. Visit the link to learn more!

Next Pop-Up Date:

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (Open House)

[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 10% 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](#)



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Children's Book Fair of Hyde Park

The 2025 Children's Book Fair of Hyde Park

The Fair will take place on Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 11:00am until 4:00pm, on 57th Street between Woodlawn and Kenwood and Kimbark Ave between 56th and 57th Street

This year's theme is "resiliency!"

See images from the 35th Annual Children's Book Fair of Hyde Park

-Videos of the 2022 parade, with the Kenwood Academy Drumline

-2022 Day of the Fair images

-2022 Banned Books Essay Contest winners

-In the Spirit Storytellers

Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 11:00am until 4:00pm, on 57th Street between Woodlawn and Kenwood and Kimbark Ave between 56th and 57th Street.

This year's theme is "resiliency!"



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SOUTH SIDE SCIENCE FESTIVAL

WHERE SCIENCE IS FOR EVERYONE

DATE
Saturday, October 4, 2025
11 a.m. to 6 p.m

LOCATION
University of Chicago
5802 S. Ellis Ave, Chicago, IL 60637

FREE ADMISSION
100+ Hands-on experiments and thought-provoking demonstrations for all ages.

Plus music, food trucks, and more!
southsidescience.event.uchicago.edu



PRESENTED BY




THE ANCONA SCHOOL & AKIBA-SCHECHTER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL PRESENT


THE 4TH ANNUAL South Side

EARLY CHILDHOOD & GRADE SCHOOL FAIR


Meet representatives from early childhood centers, grade schools, and other child-centered South Side organizations




SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
10 AM - 12 PM




THE ANCONA SCHOOL
4770 S. DORCHESTER AVE




Scan to Register




PROGRAMS FOR AGES 1-14!




FREE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS!





Akiba-Schechter
JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Register Today!
anconaschool.org/schoolfair



the ANCONA SCHOOL

Register Here

2025 - 2026
Board of Directors

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- 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



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

[Our Website](#)

[School Website](#)

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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!



Friends of Ray School | 5631 S. Kimbark Ave. | Chicago, IL 60637 US

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