Thinking of Retiring?

If you are considering retirement in the near future, now is the time to start the process. A retirement planning seminar is going to be held at ESC Region 4 on May 5, 2010 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The session ID number is 453551 and there is no registration fee!!!

Topics that will be covered include: assessing your TRS annuity, how can you maximize your investments and TRS income (for those not ready to retire), should you purchase long-term care insurance, and how much social security will you receive?

ID Theft: Password Protocol

Stafford MSD promotes a strong password protocol in order to help you protect your personal data. Identity theft is a serious threat today and historically has been the fastest growing crime in the United States. Your portal contains personal information that would make you a target for identity theft; therefore, it is imperative that you take the necessary steps to protect it. Your username and password is the main defender of this vital information, so creating a strong complex password is your best defense.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Earned income tax credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit for certain people who work and have low wages. A tax credit usually means more money in your pocket. It reduces the amount of tax you owe. The EITC may also give you a refund. To claim the EITC on your tax return, you must meet all rules set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For more information on this topic, please visit the IRS website or consult your tax accountant.

Educational Savings Plans

The Texas Education Code §54.214 authorizes an exemption from tuition and mandatory fees other than class and laboratory fees. Individuals who have been employed as full-time educational aides for at least one year during the prior five years at a public school in Texas, and who are attending a public institution of higher education in Texas to become certified as a teacher are eligible. For more information please click on the useful link.

Upcoming Dates and Reminders

* Time Clock Managers - The next payroll due date is February 17, 2010 at 5 PM
* Campus/Department Secretaries - March 26, 2010 is last day to requisition costs related to federal grants (only exceptions are ARRA allocations and the 21st Century Grant)
* Faculty and Staff - The Business Office will be closed on 2/15, 2/16, and 2/19

Comments Click here to submit comments for future newsletters or feedback on this issue.