

January, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Enclosed is a flyer about our upcoming **College Night on February 1.** Many aspects of financial aid will be discussed, but the focus of this meeting will be how to complete the federal **FAFSA form** (Pell Grant). Students who meet requirements are eligible for grant money for college or technical school. Sometimes, folks think that they will not qualify for these federal funds and do not complete a FAFSA form. However, they might actually qualify for assistance. In addition, many other scholarships (such as our local Robb Scholarship) require completion of this form before a student is eligible for consideration. Therefore, it's very important to complete this step.

In order to complete the FAFSA form, you must have completed a 2009 income tax form. The form does not have to be filed yet, just completed so you'll have necessary information.

Even if you're not quite finished with your income tax form, you and your senior should go ahead now and each get a PIN number which is required to complete the FAFSA form.

The website is: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). There are several similar websites that charge you to complete this form. If you accidentally get on one of those, and they ask you for money, stop and go to the website above. There is no charge to apply.

If you need access to a computer, I'd be happy to come to school at night so you can work here. Just let me know; my contact information is below. I'll also be glad to work with you or your student during the day.

**Included are applications for the Classroom Teachers Scholarship and the Robb Scholarship.** Please note deadlines and encourage your senior to apply for both. These are wonderful opportunities!

Also please take note of the new "Mustangs Guarantee Program" at MSU. This program pays for tuition and fees for students whose family's combined Adjusted Gross Income is \$50,000 or less. This program begins in Fall, 2010 and also requires that a student has completed and submitted a FAFSA form, in addition to several other requirements. See the enclosed information sheet for specifics.

This is the time of the year that most scholarship applications start coming into my office. I will do my best to keep your senior and you informed of those opportunities.

Please, please call or e-mail if you have questions or need more information. This is a busy time of the year and much of this information is complicated and can be very confusing. Let me know how I can help.

Hope to see you Feb. 1.

LaRae Collins (e-mail [laraecollins@electraisd.net](mailto:laraecollins@electraisd.net) - school phone 495-2218 ext. 2011 – cell 733-0225)