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BUSINESS

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Gifts teachers say they really want

By MICHELLE SINGLETARY • Washington Post

Nearly every week, my daughter, a kindergarten teacher, brings home or orders a package of goodies for her children.

That's what she calls her students, and she's always looking for a game or supplies to help teach them basic concepts about reading, writing and math. When I asked what she wanted for her birthday this year, she listed only stuff for her classroom.

This got me thinking about the profession that matters so deeply to my child, so I did an unscientific poll on social media asking teachers what they really wanted for the holidays. Many said they didn't expect anything.

"I teach at a Title I school," one educator wrote on my Facebook page. "I know our families don't have much, if any, disposable income. I don't expect anything and don't ask for anything. Plus, it is tricky with holiday gifts for and from different religions. I wouldn't want a family to feel any expectation to buy a gift."

Another wrote: "It's difficult to voice what I 'really' want because it makes it seem like I expect a gift for doing what I love, which is not the case."

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FSA FUNDS: IT'S TIME TO USE THEM, OR LOSE THEM

Story by CHRISTOPHER SNOWBECK
 Illustration by STEVE ZIMMERMAN
 Star Tribune staff

While rushing to buy holiday gifts, don't forget another deadline that comes for many consumers each December: spending down dollars in their health FSA account.

Flexible Spending Accounts (or Arrangements) are an optional benefit employers establish that lets workers set aside money for certain medical expenses.

There's no tax on dollars contributed to an FSA, so the accounts stretch your purchasing power on everything from eyewear and sanitizing wipes to annual physicals and hearing aids. In recent years, the federal government has expanded the number of products purchasable with FSA funds, but there's still a significant catch with the accounts.

See **FSA** on D4 ▶

Google to tighten location security

By CHRIS VELAZCO • Washington Post

Depending on who you ask, Google Maps' Timeline feature is a nifty way to remember all of the places you've been, or a startlingly detailed log of your movement throughout the day.

Either way, Google is now taking steps to make that location data more secure.

The company will begin changing where it stores that Timeline data. Currently, it lives on your devices and Google's servers, but when the shift takes place, your location history will remain solely on the hardware you own.

And less of that data will be stored over time, Google says — only three months' worth by default, down from the 18 months that are currently saved. The company says the changes will "gradually roll out through the next year."

If you do decide you want that information in the cloud — say, as a backup for when you get a new phone — the data will be encrypted.

In short, that means Google won't be able to see that record of where you have been, and that your location will be inaccessible to law enforcement, who have historically been able to access

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