



Wit & Wisdom: Writing from the Children of The Saturday Tutoring Program

January 1, 2010, was months away, yet on November 21, 2009, children and tutors were asked to discuss and respond to the writing topic “New Year’s Resolutions.” (November 21 was the last day of tutoring for the first semester.)

The 92 students and 69 tutors were to make lists under these phrases: changes I’d like to see in my school, changes I’d like to see in my neighborhood, changes I will make in myself, and steps I will take to make those changes.

Many of their ideas are ones that adults could consider changing in their lives. It’s so very reassuring that this generation understands what needs to be done. Below please find excerpts for your pondering and pleasure.

Danielle, Grade 10: One step I will take is to tell my friends where teenage programs are, to keep them off the street.

Anthony, Grade 12: I will learn to be more patient when I do not get my way. I will pray for patience.

Lekeya, Grade 12: I need to start using my organizer every day to break my bad habit of procrastination.

Taylor, Grade 12: I will try to put myself in better situations. I will look at other people’s situations to learn to use better judgment.

David, Grade 9: A change I will make in myself is to do good deeds for people.

Brian, Grade 12: I plan on meeting more often with tutors and

forcing myself to ask questions for better understanding of the material.

Deshon, Grade 9: I would like to see more strictness because people in my school get away with too much stuff.

Colleen, Grade 9: (Someone who, for the last 8 years, has never been late for tutoring wants to make these changes in herself): Do my work on time. Come to school on time, instead of being late some days.

Dominique, Grade 9: I wish we could get along in school. My first step to making that change is to stop the gossip and convince others to stop, too.

Adam, Grade 11: I will change as a student, a boyfriend, a son, and a brother. To be a better son and brother, I will make things less complicated.

Kyler, Grade 10: The changes I’d like to see in my school are the fighting and the feud. I will organize a nonviolence program. I will stop giving the feud energy.

Lenel, Grade 4: I would like to have more recess because we do not get enough time. To get more recess time, I would make the other people be quiet.

Maia, Grade 5: I would like to see more families move in, so I can have more friends.

Cameron, Grade 7: I will be more generous to others and help people who need it.

Christopher, Grade 7: I will be kind to others and myself.

Keayna, Grade 5: A change I will make in myself is that I will start cleaning up my room every weekend, so that it won’t get messy.

Chanice, Grade 8: I will make myself speak up when I know I should.

Isaiah, Grade 5: To keep my grades up, I will do more studying and extra credit, and get more tutoring.

Tajia Grant, Grade 8: The changes I will make in myself are being more responsible and staying positive.

Lanise, Grade 8: To get better grades, I will help people study and study with them.

Sydney, Grade 2: I want my brother and me to be friends.

DeVonte’, Grade 11: Changes I will make in myself—less procrastination, thinking less about what other people think of me.

Te’Shon, Grade 7: I will wake every day with a positive attitude. I will protest for the school and the community.

Vincent, Grade 7: I will help others with homework to keep our grades up. Then I will try to persuade school officials that we are able to go on a field trip without having any drama.

Matthew, Grade 5: My New Year’s resolution for myself is to be more compassionate and respectful to people. I will speak up for what I want to change, and think twice before I act.