**The Old Year and the New Year**

Think of what you were like last year and describe yourself. How did you change and/or grow? How would you like to change and/or grow in the new year?

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Paragraph 1:

Describe yourself in 2013. What were you like? What were some of your habits (good and/or bad)? How did you view yourself?

Paragraph 2:

How did you grow as a person (physically, mentally/academically, emotionally)? What were some of the challenges you faced? What were some of your accomplishments?

Paragraph 3:

How do you hope to change and/or grow in the new year? What are some ways that you can work toward those goals?

**Where I’ve Come From, Where I’m Going:
A Memoir by Lizzie Casey
January 1, 2014**

It is humbling to think about all that I experienced and learned throughout 2013. At the beginning of 2013, I was finishing up my last semester at N.C. State as I worked toward my Bachelor’s of Science Undergraduate Degree in Elementary Education. I remember how nervous I was to take over my assigned classroom of 4th graders during Student Teaching. As different as it was, I learned much about the person I was and who *my students* were growing to be. By the end of the year, however, I finished my first semester at Northwoods Elementary with my own students – 5th Graders (although not for much longer).

 The year of 2013 presented many significant life changes for me. I went from being a college student to a full-time educator, an apartment on the edge of a lake to a house in Southeast Raleigh, and I began supporting myself as a full-fledged adult – no longer depending on my parents. I learned about how to budget my finances to pay my bills, fund recreational activities like shopping and playing at Defy Gravity, and even save for my future wants and needs. While I didn’t grow very much physically and still remain at virtually the same height and weight, the amount in which I matured mentally is insurmountable. Granted, there are still areas in which I hope to mature, but I am thankful for how far I’ve come.

 As the New Year greets me, I hope to finish out the 2013-2014 strong with my 5th graders. To do this, I will continue studying the material I am teaching and practicing new ways to teach it (i.e. songs, poetry, and other art forms). I will strive to challenge my students as much as I challenge myself. I also hope to become more active with my music and perhaps even record some of the songs that I and some of my friends have written. Many of my goals will be difficult and require a great deal of time and devotion, but I believe that while the climb itself may be arduous, the view from the top of the mountain will make all of my efforts worthwhile.