



# olveRead

## News

### 10 Things to Do Before You Graduate By Samantha Soracco '17

#### 1: Take a day to skip school.

Go out with your friends for the day and take an adventure. Be wild and do something a little crazy. (But not too crazy!) See a show in New York City, go fishing, take a hike. You have one opportunity to have a blast and this is your only shot until you become an adult and are expected to be mature.

#### 2: Attend Prom.

This may seem obvious, but some people have no interest. I had no interest junior year but went anyway. It was the experience of getting ready for Prom and being



with friends that made it so much fun. I enjoyed dress shopping and being with my friends, as much as the actual Prom--I actually had a good time! Give everything a try before you regret not doing it. You never know what you'll miss out on if you never try.

#### 3: Videotape and photograph fun times.

Spend your days laughing and enjoying life as a kid as long as you can. Record your memories and reminisce on funny moments because they only last so long.

#### 4: Become friends with all types of people.

Don't just stick to one friend group. Expand your friend group to different types of people, not just your usual hangout. You learn which people you can rely on most

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## The Petulance of #NotMyPresident

*What the left needs to do moving forward, starting with accepting reality.*

by Matt Nilsen '17

Considering that this is an editorial, the existence of bias is implicit. Therefore, full disclosure: on election night, I preferred a Hillary Clinton victory (begrudgingly) and was not pleased with the results of the election.

That being said, regardless of whether or not I agree with President-elect Trump and his positions, regardless of whether or not I re-

spect him as a human being, regardless of whether or not I supported him or his opponent- he will be the 45th president of the United States, despite any grievance I may hold. It may seem as if I'm criticizing the #NotMyPresident hashtag from a perspective based on semantics, but it's more than that. As I find myself on the American political left, I'm faced with an interesting predicament in the next four years: how to reap even a minimal benefit from a presidency of which I have profoundly pessimistic premonitions. The beginning of the process of winning even small victories in terms of pushing the country toward a pro-

gressive future begins with the acknowledgement that Donald J. Trump will take office January 20, 2017.

I understand the nuanced reasons for tweeting the hashtag. One might want to show their followers,

abroad and at home, that they are a liberal ally, a person who does not stand for the vitriol and perceived bigotry of the Trump candidacy. However, what exactly does this do to improve the political climate? The country is starkly divided not only on a partisan level, but an

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## Girls Swim Championship Meet By Julia Hinton '17

The girls swim team had an impressive 9<sup>th</sup> place finish at the Class "S" Championship Meet. Four new school records were set and OHS athletes earned medals in two events. Medals were awarded to individual and relay teams that finished in the top six.

The 200 Freestyle Relay with Emily Darroch, Lexi Freel, Natalie Hinton, and Olivia Potter medaled with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. Natalie Hinton earned an individual medal in the 200 Freestyle

after a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish. Four events broke the school records: Emily Darroch's 50 Freestyle, Beth Whitehead's 100 backstroke, Natalie Hinton's 200 Freestyle, and the 200 Freestyle Relay.

Congratulations to all of the girls on the OHS swim team for an amazing finish; we are so happy for you. Great job to the two current captains of the girls swim team seniors Ellie Gamauf and Michaela Seales. Also, congratulations to the two new cap-



tains for the 2017 season: Natalie Hinton and Casey Marshall. All of the girls worked very hard this season and it's evident with all of the great accomplishments they achieved. Congratulations and good luck to next year's team!

## Student vs Staff: A Dodgeball Tournament By Luis Leon '20

"Play Dodge ball!" could be shouted throughout the beginning of each game between every team that competed.

The first OHS Dodgeball Tournament, a fundraising event, was sponsored by the class of 2017. Headed by Ms. Elbakry, Ms. Levitt, and the Class of 2017, the tournament consisted of 8 teams with one teacher in each one. Members of teams ranged were from all grades, 9-12. A total of 70 people participated, with 58 students and 12 teachers. Each teacher chosen for a team was randomly picked from a hat. The winning team then played against an opposing team of staff members. The tournament lasted for a total of two rounds. The first round was the best out 3 matches for each game. The second round

had an increase in suspense and time, moving the lines up closer; and rather than best out of three the matches were shortened to single elimination.

In a final showdown, the class of 2017 managed to raise about \$350 thanks to all of those who came to watch. Contributing to the distribution of tickets, the recognition goes to Spencer Moran, Jacob Eichenbaum, Ali Degirolamo, Colin Speaker, and Ms. Levitt.

Absent for the tournament? The 8 teams were the following: Aquatic squad with Mr. Schumann, Zoo Wee Mama with Mr. Forcucci, Chocolate Vanilla Swirl, with Ms. Salvatore, Purple Cobras with Mr. Montanero, The Island of Misfit Boys with Ms. Elbakry, Oxford Baseball with Ms. Blozzon, Nigerian Princes with Mr.

Porco, and finally the Wolvermemes with Ms. Tilbe.

The first round began with Ms. Elbakry explaining the rules. Referees were Mr. Pecka and Ali Degirolamo. First game had team Zoo Wee Mama going up against Aquatic Squad. The excitement began when senior, Chris Wolf, went head-on with Mr. Forcucci towards the end of the first match. Forcucci took out Chris, making Zoo Wee Mama the winners of that match. With 4 minutes in the second match, Schumann hit Forcucci, as the audience cheered for both staff members in an uproar of excitement. This, however, didn't end the victory of Zoo Wee Mama. They won this game moving on to the next round. The subsequent match had the victors of Purple Cobras when facing Chocolate Vanilla Swirl.

Then came The Island of Misfit Boys versus the Oxford baseball team. The first match came to an end with freshmen, Erin Cote, taking the last out for the misfits, and Oxford baseball won. During the second match, the Misfits struck back with their win. MVP went to Ms. El-



Elbakry as she dodges spontaneously from Oxford Baseball. Because this round is best out of three, the teams intensified the match by moving the lines closer in. Right after establishing the rules, Elbakry comically passed the lines getting out of the game. MVP for this match went to Freshman, Tanner Soracco, as he took out two people in a row. After the final match, the winners were Oxford Baseball.

The last game of the first round (one of the most entertaining) was the Nigerian Princes, consisting nobody Freshman only, and the Wolvermemes, comprised of all Seniors. The first match MVP went to Freshman Saar Rosa. Even though he was knocked out, his going down was worth noting. Having two balls come flying toward him simultaneously, he dodged both. However, in his moments of glory, as the audience cheered him on, he took a hit to the face. A fine job it was he put out! The Wolvermemes won the first match. Second match also ended with a win for the the seniors; Freshman, Spencer Suttle being the only one of the Nigerian Princes on the court being the last out.

The second round the matches were no longer best out of 3, but single elimination. Not only this but the lines were brought closer, having more of a tight, suspenseful space. The first game begins with Zoo Wee

Mama going against Purple Cobras. The game comes to a finish in an epic showdown between two students: junior, Chris Rinaldi, on Zoo Wee Mama and Sophomores, Jared Pattinella on Purple Cobras.

Clock striker to an end before a winner could be established; so, a rematch was in order between only the two students and we're given one minute. The two of them were brought very close in range. Chris had an advantage, for most of the balls were by his side. Jared epically dodged most of Chris's attacks, jumping in all sorts of angles. The audience cheered for each one of his jumps. Thinking cunningly, as he was down to his last ball, Chris hit Jared when he was in a midway jump, scoring him out and bringing the victory to Zoo Wee Mama!

The next game was Wolvermemes against Oxford baseball. That match ended with the Wolvermemes taking the victory. Finally the game came to determine who would oppose the team of staff members, with the Wolvermemes going head on with Zoo Wee Mama. Forcucci again showed his skill of dodging throughout the match. Finally, all seniors of the Wolvermemes were on court against one junior, Joe Welsh. Predictably the senior team took the victory of this final match, preparing to go up against the staff members.

"The Oxford Fire Department has asked me to inform all teachers to stretch before this game," joked the Senior announcer, Spencer Moran, poking fun of the teachers. Mr. Giovacchino was the final teacher on the court in this match of staff versus students, resulting in the Wolvermemes victory!

Congratulations to the Wolvermemes, the final champions of this year's Dodgeball Tournament and to all other participants. Being in the



audience I hear how excited the crowd was throughout the game.

Pep Rally: A vote was set through twitter to see another event take place between teachers and students. Ms Salvatore called in a rematch of a students versus staff match against the Wolvermemes. Two former students who graduated from OHS come to join in the match as well. Ultimately, Ms. Elbakry was the final teacher on the court; but alas, she was taken down by the senior team!

## Girls NVL Diving Meet Woodland High School By Samantha Soracco '17

On November 2nd, 2016 Oxford High school held its NVL girls diving meet at Woodland High school where ten divers performed eleven dives each. Kelsey Dejesus from Wassertown placed first for the second year in a row with the leading top score of 504.80.

Emily LaRocque from Oxford placed second, also for the second year in a row, with 471.20 points. Alexa Gallino of Sacred Heart placed third while Jenna Chasse from Oxford placed fourth.

Last year in the NVLs Jenna Chasse Placed eleventh out of all of

the other divers but she has made tremendous improvements this year. Although she made the top five, she did not qualify to move on in the competition. Nonetheless, her friends and family, are beyond proud of her.

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## Ryan Martin and Roosevelt Credit: The Wellbeing in Us By Luis Leon '20

This year, Oxford High School has hosted several guest speakers who have come to share their life experiences and career pursuits with students. Writer Eric Devine arrived to tell about his inspiration on becoming an author; and in October, another guest speaker, Ryan Martin, shared the story of his journey to become a professional wheelchair basketball player. However different these jobs may be, both speakers share a similar interest: reaching well being for the self and common good.

As a child, Ryan was diagnosed with spina bifida, and had his legs amputated at the age of two. Because of his vulnerability, he described himself as an obvious target for insensitive remarks.

During the lecture he told of his experiences, saying that when he needed, often, no one answered the

call. Imagine being told to not be able to do something judged based upon a first glance of you. Sometimes, even Ryan's teachers were skeptical of his abilities.

Students didn't make life any easier. At times he would pretend to break his wheelchair in order to avoid going to school. But, Ryan says, his skill in basketball "saved" him. He picked up a scholarship and now travels internationally as a professional wheelchair basketball player.

However, he is still humble and faithful to his origins. Even after the school system failed him, he still goes back to his home state to teach young people that they can achieve greatness and productivity, despite hardships.

We can all learn something from his story of compassion rather than



Ryan Martin with Kristy Capodagli, Dan Mohajerin, and Cristian Leon

re-  
sentment after going through pain.

Another guest, Roosevelt Credit, briefly spoke to the students of the music program on November 28th. He summed up career life, saying, "No matter what you do, science, math, music, or anything, be sure that you are happy!" This is another positive take-away students received from a visitor's story.

## Festival of Trees by Julia Hinton '17

On Friday December 2nd, OHS hosted the annual Festival of Trees event where some of the most decorated trees, wreaths, and gingerbread houses were filled with prizes by the all the school advisories and raffled off to guests in the holiday spirit.

When the school first opened back in 2007, this event was a way to bring the people of Oxford together



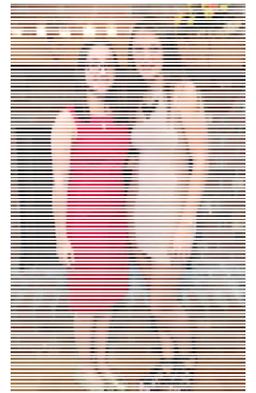
around this festive time of year. Mrs. Sherman, a leading member of the booster club, loves this event and has seen how successful it has been. "Last year, the festival of trees raised \$2,500 to send a child to camp for a week, as well as donating \$100-200 to local charities. This year, there were over 40 trees, wreaths, and gingerbread houses, which is more than ever before!" Ms. Sherman said.

This event is fun for the whole family with photos with Santa, wagon rides with Santa, and "Harmony on the Sound" (a local choir band). This year, a Winter Wonderland theme was combined with the

Christmas theme to make the most exciting Christmas event. Mrs. Sherman also named some of the local charities that will be receiving the money from the event, which include "Tough for Tia, a local Seymour girl who is suffering from neuroblastoma; and "A New Heart for Cora", a Southbury girl who underwent a heart transplant."

All of the money is donated to great causes. Thank you to all of the people who are helping out with the event.

### Snapshots of HOMECOMING 2016



### Thanksgiving Parade Photos Photo Credit: Brianna Lum '18



### Congratulations to Mr. Oxford 2016:

**John Mainiero**

Photo Credit: Ms. Potter



## Poetry Out Loud by Morgan Hines '19

Poetry is way for people to express themselves. Throughout history, poetry has given people a way to explore, understand, and experience the emotions of ourselves as human beings. To celebrate this great form of literature, Oxford High School, encourages students to participate in the annual Poetry Out Loud competition.

Poetry Out Loud, is a national recitation competition which encourages students to embrace their skills in both public speaking and in reciting poetry. In our school, a school wide competition is held at the beginning of each year. Of the 40 to 50 participants, one student earns the championship qualifies for the state competition. Then if the

student wins states, he or she moves on to the national competition where a \$20 thousand scholarship awaits.

To participate in this event, students must first chose a poem to perform in front of judges and an audience. The poems that are available for selection can be found on the Poetry Out Loud website. There are a ton of poems to choose from, so any participant will definitely find one that they enjoy. Then comes memorization, But just memorizing a poem won't guarantee a win. Judges look for students to showcase emotion and performance skills in the recitation of their poem. Winning requires a ton of practice and dedication. This can be seen from



last years winners, who were: Brooke Van Buiten, Maddie Frew, and Hailey Galosa.

Poetry Out Loud is an exciting competition. From personal experience, it is an amazing feeling to be able to perform on stage. I highly recommend all students to participate in the upcoming event, which will be held January 5, 2016. Make sure to come and participate!

## Wolverine Pride by Morgan Hines '19

On Wednesday, November 23, right before Thanksgiving Break, OHS held its first pep rally of the year. The event's purpose was to prepare the school for its last football game of the season. The pep rally was a success; and so was the football game: the OHS Wolverines won!

The pep rally started with the cheering for our fall sport teams who all worked hard this season to perform their best.

This years pep rally was exciting as always, and was of course a competitive event. Instead of a tug-of-



war game, a dodge ball game was this year's sporting event of choice at the rally. The contest featured two teams: one of the teams was a group of teachers looking for revenge after a crushing loss to students at a dodgeball tournament earlier this year. The teacher team was up against a team of seniors who call themselves the "Wolver-memes". The Wolver-memes claimed another victory, becoming OHS undefeated dodgeball champions.

At the pep rally there was also a competition for the most spirited class in the school. The competition started after representatives of each class came to the center of the gym to help their class cheer to win the coveted Golden Shovel. Though it was a tough call between the Sophomores and the Seniors, the Seniors, Class of 2017, won the competition.



After the heated rivalries throughout the event, the pep rally moved forward as the class representatives helped their classmates recite some of our school's cheers.

The event was exciting as always and helped pump up the Wolverine Pride for the last football game of the season.

## The Talented People of Oxford High School By Brianna Lum '18

“Oxford’s Got Talent” is a popular event that invites students to express their talents on stage. This year’s show consisted of eleven acts: Arianna Keller played “Fool Me Once”; Phil DiGiovanni played “You’re in the Band”; Kathleen Kelly played “I Hate You, I Love You”; and Dana Cote played “Almost Lover”. Nathan Riddle performed “Rainbow Connection”, Justin Calabrese was on the guitar; Cheyon Car-

rasquillo performed “King Kode”, Katie Casablanca performed “The Chain”; Shania Ek played “Where the Skies are Blue”, and Maya Riberio sang “The Lonely”. Together, Ariana and Nathan performed “The Ballad of Love and Hate”, a stellar performance that won them the talent show.

As Master of Ceremonies, Sonya Kayfus ran the whole show, making sure everything went smoothly. She

continued the talent show tradition, begun by students years ago to showcase the talents of the students at Oxford High School, and to bring together the student body. Behind the scenes, Mr. Lougee helped a lot, and Tess Peters helped backstage during the show. The sound/lighting was set up by Sarah Stroh and Sara Zareski.

## The Youth Conservations Corps Needs Workers by Brianna Lum '18

The OHS Youth Conservation Corps is the perfect opportunity to help make Oxford beautiful. The town of Oxford is surrounded by woods, so hiking is a popular activity for residents. The OH YCC was created to clean and maintain the trails around town to make sure no one

gets hurt or lost. Students’ work on the trails counts as volunteer hours. After completing 50 volunteer hours (which passes surprisingly fast), students can earn money.

Work is generally on Saturdays from 8am to 12pm on a trail next to the high school’s driveway; howev-

er, the program does not run through the winter. It generally starts up in the springtime, and runs to early November. Throughout the summer, hours generally run from 12pm to 4pm on weekdays.

If you have any questions, ask Mr. Lanier in room 355.

### WolveRead Editorial Staff

#### Writing & Photography

- Philip DiGiovanni '20
- Morgan Hines '19
- Julia Hinton '17
- Luis Leon '20
- Brianna Lum '18
- Emily McElfresh '17
- Matthew Nilsen '17
- Zoe Olbrys '17
- Michaela Seales '17
- Amy Sherman '17
- Samantha Soracco '17

#### CALLING ALL WRITERS!!

We would love to have you on our staff. Please see Mrs. Elbakry or Ms. Levitt for more information, or drop in for a meeting—Mondays after school in room 309

### DIVING cont'd

As a spectator/reporter at this meet, I could see the amount of stress on the divers. Their sport is different from swimming you see because precision is required. They must contort their bodies in uncomfortable ways and achieve perfection. Divers are expected to perform

their best as they take an individual turn in a completely silent room with



all eyes on them. That's not exactly comforting, but the girls find ways to figure it out and do achieve breathtaking beauty and incredible results. Diving is a sport that takes powerful skill, concentration, and grace under pressure. Our school is proud of the OHS team and their amazing accomplishments.

## Syria Faces Airstrike Threats from Russia on Election Day

by Michaela Seals '17

While Americans headed to the polls to choose the lesser of two evils in this election, America was not the only nation in crisis. Russia threatened to launch large-scale cruise missile and airstrikes that would coincide with the U.S. election. These strikes would be targeting the outskirts of Aleppo where rebel groups are located, and involve cruise missiles, carrier-based and land-based warplanes.

Most of the missile strikes Aleppo has been hit with were launched

from the Caspian Sea and took out dozens of terrorist groups. It is now predicted that these strikes will take out hundreds of groups from long range. Russia has assembled a large navy fleet in the past several days. However, the true purpose of these new planned air strikes is questionable, as many military officials claim that this Aleppo attack would present the capability and strength of the Russian army on the day of the U.S. election. The plan, according to Putin observers, is to make Russia a

prominent global force again. Putin has clearly stated his support for Trump as well, so it is likely that these air strike threats were a political message to his beloved candidate, as Putin tries to “Make Russia Great Again.”



## LOCAL NEWS

### GOMS Play By Morgan Hines '19

In November the Great Oak Middle School Drama Club, put on its production of Into the Woods Jr. This show, was originally on Broadway, and first made its appearance to the stage in the 1980's. It became so popular that it was also turned into a movie adaptation in 2014. The big idea within the play is to show how all of the Grimm fairy tales are connected.

Two of the characters in the show are a Baker and his wife. More than anything, they wish to have a child. But they soon learn from a witch who lives next door the reason they can't have one. She claims that, due to mistakes done by his father and mother, she cursed the baker's family tree to always be barren. Soon, she explains to them how they can reverse the curse. She tells them to retrieve some ingredients before the end of three midnights

to help have their wish to have a child come true. The story follows these characters as they go on their quest to find the ingredients. As they search for them, they run into different characters such as: Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Jack from Jack in the Beanstalk, and many more famous fairy tale characters.



The students' performance was spectacular! I have seen the play twice before and it is honestly one of my favorite Broadway shows. The Oxford middle school students went beyond my expectations. Through their performance, viewers could see that they worked extremely

hard to create and amazing performance.

One of my favorite things about the show was the amazing work they did in casting, which was done by directors Ms. Bayha and Mrs. Coty. One of my favorite performers was Little Red Riding Hood. The actress was perfect for the role. She is small and tiny, just like the role calls for, but don't let that mistake you, for she has a beautiful and powerful voice.

Another example of great casting is the two boys they chose to play Cinderella and Rapunzel's princes. According to the script, the two princes are brothers. So they chose twins for the roles. The boys were hilarious and helped make the show enjoyable especially when they sang their duet called Agony.

The Baker and the Baker's Wife, were also well-chosen. They both

had amazing voices and acting skills. They are both in eighth grade; OHS looks forward to the day they bring those skills with them to the high school stage next year. The girl who played Rapunzel, had a beautiful voice. She was elegant and poised, which allowed her to play the role perfectly. Jack, was hilarious, and knew how to make the crowd laugh. The role of his mother was also executed well and made me laugh as well.

The actress who played the role of the witch, had a beautiful voice and knew how to enunciate her

words, while still making her voice sound beautiful. She was always in tune and is an amazing actress. I extremely enjoyed watching her perform.

Cinderella, was a very great actress and knew how to grab the attention of the audience when she was on stage. The children who played her step-mother, step-sisters and father were hilarious and added to the play's humorous tone.

Two narrators in the show also were hilarious and were able to tell the story very well. They knew how to play their roles and were super

comfortable on stage. The huntsman also performed really well and was humorous in her role.

Besides the cast, the set was amazing too. Mrs. Bothwell, who was in charge of set design, helped organize the kids to create a very creative and original set. The whole set was handmade by GOMS students and many volunteers.

Overall, Into the Woods was an amazing production. Careful planning went into every detail, and the kids worked very hard. I can't wait to see what they decide to next year.

## Harry Potter Spinoff, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*

By Brianna Lum '18

To the joy of the Harry Potter fans of the world, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* was released on November 18, and many flocked to the theaters to see it. This story follows Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), the fictional author of Hogwart's *Magical Creatures* textbook, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, as he travels from England to New York City in an effort to document magical creatures to help his fellow wizards better understand them. Most wizards of the time didn't have knowledge of these creatures, and this led to fear of all beasts.

While in New York for a brief stopover, he runs into problems when he meets a No-Maj (American for Muggle) named Jacob, a misplaced magical case, and the escape of some of Newt's fantastic beasts, which could spell trouble for both the wizarding and No-Maj worlds. In an effort to recapture his creatures, he meets Tina Golstien, a worker for the Magical Congress of the United

States of America, and later, meets her sister, Queenie. The team must also deal with an Obscurus. This is a dark form of magic that was created when wizards had to repress their magic for fear of prosecution. They can typically be controlled until around the age of 10, and then the energy dies, along with its host.

Overall, I thought it was a good, fun movie to watch. As a big Harry Potter fan, it was nice **to get** a Hufflepuff as a main character, rather than another Gryffindor. I also found the relationship between Queenie and Jacob to be entertaining. The movie also provided a different kind of hero to the movie industry. Many central heroes have some sort of brawn, or strong magical ability. Here, Newt is seen as kind, and loyal, and didn't resort to violence as his first solution. He openly talked about emotions, something Harry Potter in the previous series has problems with.

However, I did think that the plot of the movie could have been



better planned out. The main plot was obviously the escape of the magical creatures, but the obscurus were also supposed to be a major plot point, and I feel as if it didn't get the justice it needed. There will be four more installments of *The Fantastic Beasts* movies and I believe it would have been better if they moved that plot into the next movie, which I think would have been advantageous to the big reveal at the end of the movie. It felt as if the plots were crowded into one movie in order to make a good setup for the rest of the movies in the series.

**10 THINGS cont'd**

and what makes a great friend.

**5: Be independent.**

Don't just do what everyone else is doing. Find what you like by doing many different things. Join a sports team or a club. Do something you love, despite the fact that your best friend may not be there with you.

**6: Spend at least twenty-four hours without your phone.**

You have an infinite amount of time to be on your phone. Stop worrying about texting friends back or looking at your Twitter feed. Trust me, you're better off without technology. You'd be amazed at how much more in touch with the world you will find yourself.

**PETULANCE cont'd**

inter-partisan level, with populist wings arising in both parties as a result of the candidacies of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. Both parties are experiencing a rapidly worsening identity crisis in which they either embrace an inclusionary doctrine centered on the working class, or preserve the same brand of establishment minded, milquetoast, status quo political thought that was voted against on November 8th. Adding to this division by not accepting, even on a philosophical level, the presidency of one's opposing party is not going to solve any problems.

As I see it, the strategy of the American Left over the next four years should not be one of division and exclusion, but rather an aggressive recruitment of individuals from all classes, all creeds, colors, genders,

**7: Write in a journal.**

Record your memories and childhood. In the future you may want to look back and read about what your life was like when you were sixteen. Your kids may even want to read it someday, so why not have it there for them? If you're ever dealing with something hard, write it down and explain how you dealt with it so it can benefit your kids someday.

**8: Appreciate your teachers.**

Tell your favorite teachers how much they mean to you. Let them know how much they have helped you. They may even become more appreciative of their current students because of your thank you to them. They'll know that what they're doing means at least something to someone-- even if it's just you!

etc. The American working class is currently a battleground for electoral support- with the right wing fairly open with their protection of American elites in the form of corporate tax cuts, and the left wing a bit more subtle with their support of trade deals that worsen poverty in Middle America, and the embrace of the physical embodiment of corporatism and Wall Street coziness in the candidacy of Hillary Clinton. As the Republican and Democratic parties lick their wounds to mend divisions, it is our prerogative on the left to create a Democratic Party that works for all of us, rather than the support of a few. It is our prerogative to abandon the ineffective strategy of identity politics that has exacerbated the rise of the alt-right. It is our prerogative to accept our reality as it is, swallow it despite its foul taste, and be rational about our strategy moving for-

**9: Leave a note to a freshman.**

This is something I would have wanted as a freshman. Leave a note in your locker before you leave school in June with advice and tips to an incoming freshman. Let them know what you would have wanted to know as a freshman and what you think will help them.

**10: Learn how to ask for help.**

This one took me a while. I was always really shy and not willing to speak my mind to my teachers and friends. If I was ever struggling in a class, I would just let my questions stay to myself, which did not end well. I started asking questions about my confusion last year and my grades have improved greatly. You may even be helping someone else out too, as they may have the same question, but are too afraid to say it.

ward.

To be clear, the left would have had the same predicament in the case that Clinton had won. In that scenario, as well as in our current standing, we would have been in a position in which we would need to force our president to embrace truly principled positions concerning the strife of the American worker, the stress of the college student under excessive student loan debt, and embrace an economically populist platform that is representative of more than just the top of the top. The only difference is that now, instead of having to move Hillary Clinton to the left away from the center, we will now have to pull Donald Trump to the center away from the right. Regardless, such a struggle would have been difficult. Regardless, we need to accept reality.