



# Sweet Sixteen

By: Kelsey Kiley

"I think it's weird how there are certain ages that everyone gets so worked up about. I didn't think turning 16 would be any different than turning 15, even though it's claimed to be 'sweet 16.' In some ways, I've changed my thinking on that. I didn't feel more mature or anything of the sort, it was just an extra special birthday that didn't consist only of my family and I going out for dinner. It was one that I will remember every little detail for the rest of my life," said **Rosie Griffin, 10**, with her new car and lacrosse teammates, **Stacy Shutts, 10**, **Cheryl Thoenner, 10**, **Allison Bell, 10**, and **Liz Walsh, 10**.

Somehow, no matter what age you were, the next year up sounded SO much older. 19 was so much older than 18, 18 than 17, but one of the biggest jumps was definitely 15 to 16.

"Finally driving is awesome, so that makes being 16 amazing!" said **Maria Thomas, 10**.

Undeniably, most of it is about the car. 16 equals, for many people, a license. The ability to drive was a taste of freedom.

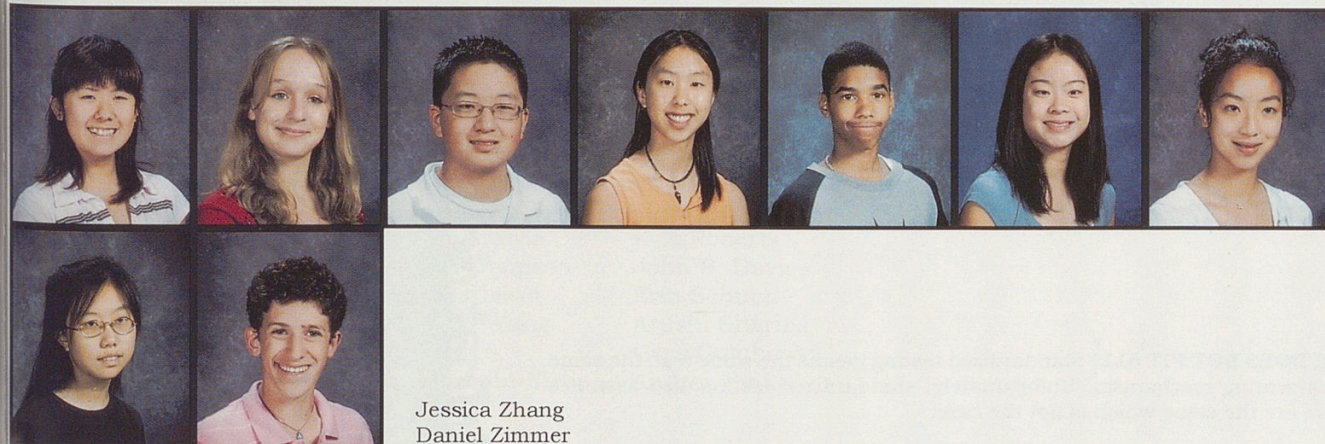
"Driving is pretty sweet because you don't have to roll up to places with your parents next to you, aside from driving, it's okay. The responsibility meter has gone up and it feels people expect more out of you," said **Steve Ross, 10**.

To turn 16 was to also be halfway through high school. Many will be 18 when they graduate, and it was a shock to realize high school was almost over.

"The whole summer I counted down the days until my sweet 16 which also meant getting my license! Turning 16 was made to be such a big deal and when it happened, I didn't feel any older until school started again, knowing I was one or even two years older than some people in my grade." - **Shelli Coppoolse, 10**



"I find no difference in being sixteen... It is just another year." - **Mitch Allen, 10**



Kaori Yamada  
Annie Yamson  
Christopher Yen  
Bo-Young Yoon  
Aaron York  
Danli Zhang  
Janli Zhang

Jessica Zhang  
Daniel Zimmer