



Sammy Docter  
Editor/Reporter



### What's the Goal?

Originally, NaNoWriMo was created just because the founders had nothing better to do and because they wanted to "make some noise". As the project has evolved to a worldwide event, the aim of NaNoWriMo changed. The mission statement, according to the NaNoWriMo website, is "to provide the structure, community, and encouragement to help people find their voices, achieve creative goals, and build new worlds." NaNoWriMo is meant as an opportunity for anyone who has ever thought about writing a novel to build one with a specific goal in mind. The vast majority of NaNoWriMo writers said that the challenge helped them learn what they can accomplish when determined, that it made them more excited about writing, and it boosted their confidence in their literary abilities. Once a novel is completed, the participant is considered a winner, but

there aren't any official prizes for doing so. However, the self-publishing company called CreateSpace offers winners a paperback copy of their manuscript and the option to sell the novel on Amazon.com.

### A Huge Commitment

50,000 words, to put it into context, is roughly the same word count as *The Great Gatsby* or *The Outsiders*. Normally this amounts to about 175-200 pages. If a participant divides this up evenly between the thirty days of November, that's 1,667 words per day. A story for NaNoWriMo is written from scratch starting on November 1st, although preparation can be done beforehand, like background information about the story.

### How Do You Do It?

The high word count, the short amount of time to write the story, or a lack of experience with creative writing may discourage someone from participating in NaNoWriMo, but there are programs sponsored by this organization that help writers on their journeys to complete a novel. Many famous authors have pep talks that try to guide novelists in the right direction and keep them motivated. The Young Writers Program (YWP) promotes the primary aspects of NaNoWriMo for kids in Kindergarten-12th grade. The YWP allows kids 17-and-younger to set reasonable, but still challenging, word counts for themselves; it's not required to write 50,000 words through this program. A virtual writing retreat called Camp NaNoWriMo is much more flexible as it prepares writers for the real thing. This takes place in April and July. NaNoWriMo also sponsors the Come Write In program, which provides free resources

places to work on stories during this month. After the novel is complete, NaNoWriMo staff helps novelists edit and revise their stories during the "Now What?" months.

### Tips for Completing

One of the most important things to do when participating in NaNoWriMo is to keep a routine. Write at least 1,667 words a day or more, if the motivation or inspiration strikes. Plan for catch-up days, if the desired word count at a specific point in time is short.

Write anything. It doesn't matter if the quality is awful; just get something down on the page. If nothing else, use writing prompts or word sprints to get going. Don't edit a story, since this'll be done after the month's over.

Prepare the story before November actually begins. Develop characters, plot, and setting, and form a general outline of the novel. Don't go into NaNoWriMo blind; carefully formulate all the necessary elements needed for an interesting, complex book.

Set goals other than the end goal of finishing a novel, like benchmarks. Once these benchmarks have been reached, recognize this and give rewards.

Stay positive. NaNoWriMo can be extremely stressful or seem impossible, especially if a participant doesn't have a lot of writing experience. Have a support system, go to write-ins, or join the local NaNoWriMo community. Forums on the NaNoWriMo website provide advice, criticism, and support all throughout the process.

NaNoWriMo is an incredible challenge for people who like to write. No matter the skill level, anyone can participate and join in this novel experience.

## Birthdays

Dylan Boley  
Editor/Reporter



- November 3**  
Jose Cabrera
- November 5**  
Jimmie Cothran
- November 7**  
Robert Cappello, Christopher Martin, Roman Santana
- November 15**  
Anthony Graham
- November 16**  
Kaitlyn Gray, Justin Magruder
- November 17**  
Bryce Stout
- November 19**  
Magdalena Gaffney
- November 20**  
Brandon Sons
- November 25**  
Savannah Chose
- November 27**  
Amy Larson, Caelyn Thorpe
- November 28**  
Emily Oskierko, Kaitlin Hauser
- November 29**  
Emily Palmisano



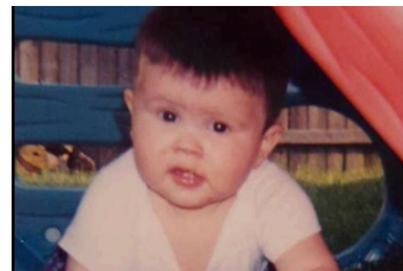
Evelyn Eckhardt  
Editor/Reporter



## Tales From the Crib



This freshman loves to play baseball and has since he was three. His favorite color is blue because his birthstone is blue, and it also incorporates the Cubs colors. He also enjoys hanging out with friends, playing baseball, and playing video games.



This sophomore tore his ACL while playing basketball. His favorite sport is soccer and he played goalie until his injury arose. He also likes the color blue. He also likes the color blue. He enjoys playing soccer, spending time with his friends, and binge watching series on Netflix.



This junior has plays soccer and is starting softball. She loves the color silver because it's very soft and it reminds her of the winter. She likes to draw and write stories as a hobby. Her favorite season is Winter and her favorite book is *Of Fire and Stars*.



This senior has been playing basketball since the start of highschool and has always played for enjoyment. His favorite color is blue. He also thinks that he's the most attractive kid in the school. He enjoys being out with his friends, playing basketball, and going to volleyball games.

Answers on Page 10

# Bohemian Rhapsody

Bailey Schmidt  
Editor/Reporter



On November 2nd, a movie named *Bohemian Rhapsody* comes to theaters. *Bohemian Rhapsody* is based of the popular 1970's band Queen. The movie is a total of 2 hours and 15 minutes long and it is directed by Bryan Singer, who also directed the *X-men* series. The actors playing the members of Queen are Rami Malek (Freddie Mercury, lead vocalist), Ben Hardy (Roger Taylor, drummer), Joseph Mazzello (John Deacon, Bass Guitarist), and Gwilym Lee (Brian May, Guitarist).

The movie is a "celebration" of Queen, their well-known music, and the lead singer Freddie Mercury. The movie follows Queen's extraordinary legacy from the beginning to the legendary performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985. Freddie broke stereotypes, and soon

became one of the most famous and beloved entertainers. The movie expresses the huge rise of Queen, brought on by their hit songs and revolutionary sound. It then continues to Freddie's decision to go solo and leave Queen. The movie goes then to when Freddie reunites with his bandmates Roger Taylor, John Deacon, and Brian May for the Live Aid concert/festival. This performance is known as "the 20 minutes that changed music". This was while Freddie was strongly facing a recent AIDS diagnosis. Despite this struggle, he still manages



still manages to lead the band to one of the best performances in rock history.

When the trailer hit theaters, Queen fans were ecstatic to hear the news. Before the movie comes out, a good idea would be to listen to some of Queen's top songs, one being the movie title, "*Bohemian Rhapsody*". A few other popular songs are "*We Will Rock You*", "*We Are the Champions*", "*Another One Bites the Dust*" and another 100 other songs. Queen has released 15 studio albums and 10 live albums so there is something for anyone. Another thing to do while waiting for the movie is watch Queen's Live Aid performance. You could also read more on the band's past such as how they became Queen or the Live Aid performance. Even if you are not a fan of Queen, this would be a great movie to see in theaters on November 2nd.

