JANUARY



WWW.MINEPLEX.COM

CREATED BY THE NEWSLETTER AND MEDIA STAFF

ISSUE 5

C O N T E N T S

WHAT'S Trending?	PAGE 1	super SURVEYS	PAGE 8
Caption the Screenshot	PAGE 3	TRAINEE INTERVIEWS	PAGE 9
new map Previews	PAGE 4	HOLIDAY ART Competition	PAGE 11
#ASK THE <mark>s t a f f</mark>	PAGE 5	MINEPLEX REWIND	PAGE 12
story writing Competition	PAGE 6	staff <mark>BIOS</mark>	PAGE 1

PAGE ZERO

WHAT'S **TRENDING?**



12/06/15 CHRISTMAS UPDATE

With the Christmas spirit and good cheer in the air, Mineplex has transformed into an exquisite winter wonderland, completely decked out with festivity. With presents stationed 'round and music playing, it's not difficult to feel the joy reverberating throughout the lobbies as thousands of players gather to celebrate as one with the release of the Christmas Update!

The Christmas Update brings all new kinds of merriment to the Mineplex server, with fun new games to play and activities to do. There are so many choices. Which will you choose to undertake first?

12/06/15 SEASONAL LOBBIES

Do you prefer a more classic approach to appreciate the holidays? Simply explore the lavishly decorated Seasonal Lobbies, built by the talented Builders of Mineplex. Climb on top of the giant presents or simply run around in the snow. As an added bonus, several Christmas songs play throughout the lobbies, so you can have a joyous time singing along to popular holiday tunes, such as 'Jingle Bells' and 'Let it Go'.

12/06/15 SNOW FIGHT

Are you a thrill-seeker? Try the new gamemode Mineplex has recently released: Snow Fight. Fight against the opposing teams as meteors shower down upon the land, coating the rugged terrain with slippery ice! Snow Fight is a vigorous, fast-paced mini-game in which players fight to the death with the power of nature. Four teams are set on opposing sides of a square-shaped map and must lower the health of their adversaries by battering them with the ultimate weapons--snowballs. As the game progresses, nature turns against the players, raining down gelid rocks upon the remaining survivors. Who will be the last man standing? Can it be you?

12/11/15 GLADIATORS

After much clamoring for it, a snazzy, new, 1v1 gamemode has been released: Gladiators! Gladiators is an enjoyable Arcade game in which players can fight against one another in short, swift battles in small arenas. As the game advances, players are supplied with better armor and weaponry in order to make their battles more difficult. At the end, only one player can remain victorious. Are you daring enough to try to win?

12/11/15 PHINARY'S PROMOTION

One of our prestigious Developers has been promoted to the position of a member of the Leadership Team! Phinary has put in an exceptional amount of effort into his prior role, and his promotion to LT was definitely well-deserved.



WHAT'S TRENDING?

12/13/15 WINTERY CHAOS

With the upcoming winter season, what better way to celebrate than to protect Santa Claus from the evils that await him as he travels across the world? An unknown, dark foe is purloining Santa's presents! Help Santa reclaim his presents and ensure a safe and happy Christmas for all. In addition to presents from Santa, Mineplex has gifted its playerbase with the unique addition of Winter Holiday Treasure! Open these chests for a chance to win some truly remarkable goodies! Likewise, Mineplex has also revamped the cosmetics. Some new features include: rewards for having an entire set of cosmetics, a remake of the cosmetic GUI, and new categories for cosmetics.

12/18/15 PAINTBALLIN'

Super Paintball, a classic game of Mineplex, has also been redone! There are now exciting new characteristics that have been added to this gamemode, one of which is the addition of a special kit: Sniper. Sniper is the new achievement kit for Super Paintball, and you can use it by pressing and holding 'Shift'. Numerous bugs have also been fixed, and achievements now will reward properly.

Furthermore, Mineplex has also released two new maps for Super Paintball: 'Mansions' and 'New York City'. These sizable and intricate maps bring a stunning new aspect to the gamemode. You can check out the Home Page for a glimpse of these extraordinary creations. If you haven't tried out these new maps, you are missing out!

12/21/15 TYPE WARS

As snowflakes fall, so will giants (but only if you don't type fast enough)! Mineplex has introduced a new gamemode to the server: Type Wars! Two teams of six players must face off in a long arena with giants on each side, one that you must protect and one that you are trying to destroy! Evil monsters will spawn and walk across the map to assault your giant! These monstrous beasts can only be vanquished if you can correctly type the names on their nametags. The more creatures you kill, the more money you have to use for casting deadly spells against the advancing hordes. You can also use your cash to summon these mobs to attack your enemy. Be sure to look for the Type Wars NPC in the lobby to get you to the game.

12/25/15 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Mineplex wishes the playerbase a Merry Christmas, and has shown it by giving the community an entertaining way to get presents! There are little elves strewn around the lobby and they each have a nice gift to give you! Can you find all of the elves?



CAPTION THE SCREENSHOT! BY: SNOW_SPARROW

Want to participate in the Mineplex Newsletter but don't know how? In this issue of the Mineplex Newsletter, you have the option to compete against other players to create the best caption for the screenshot below. This scary little snowman featured in this picture sure wants to look impressive. With twinkling lights all around him and snowflakes glistening in the sky above, he sure has a picturesque appearance. Be sure to invent and submit your own creative caption for the competition here!

HTTP://BIT.LY/CAPTIONTHESCREENSHOT5





NEW MAP PREVIEWS!

BY: XLOUIS & Alexthekitty

Throughout the year, we have seen the Mineplex Build Team produce and release hundreds of maps; each map never failing to impress the community. In mid-July, the Build Team released forty-seven new maps at once, making it Mineplex's largest map release ever. On the behalf of the community and the Staff Team, we would like to thank the Build Team for their extensive work on these projects.



However, don't think this is all the Build Team has done. In fact, we have been granted permission to highlight some previews of the Build Team's most recent map work! The maps shown are not guaranteed to be incorporated into Mineplex; not all have yet passed the Quality Assurance testing.

Nonetheless, with the release of many games throughout the year, Mineplex has released maps not only for its new games, but also for its old favorites. In the screenshots, we see some upcoming maps for Skywars, Gladiators and Dragon Escape!





#ASKTHESTAFF!

This holiday season, we set out to find answers to a few community-asked questions. Take a look at how a few staff members responded to the following holiday themed questions!

WHAT WAS/IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON?

Mrch_: I love the Christmas music, vibes, food, presents, coffee flavors, and the weather during the holiday season.

LeonUnderscore: When I was younger, it was always the build up. Christmas was great, but the suspense of waiting for it - the advent calendars, family members coming home, making cards and decorations in school, was all that mattered to me. It was always the best part, regardless of how great a gift I might have received. Nowadays, I'm just happy to have no school. It's an exam year for me, and getting a break from studying and homework is all I want. The presents don't matter, I'm just happy to not be sitting at a desk writing personal essays or studying theorems.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TRADITIONS YOU CELEBRATE OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

LeonUnderscore: Every year, we have about three Christmas dinners. On Christmas Eve, I visit my Grandad's house and have dinner with that side of the family. Christmas Day is spent at home, and then on St. Stephen's day we travel to my Dad's side of the family and have dinner with them. Inside three days we usually get all relatives covered and have the rest of the holidays to ourselves. BTSInDarkness: Every year, my family and I cut down a dead tree and make an ornament out of it, which is called Yule Logging.

DID YOU TRAVEL ANYWHERE OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Theminerscode: We only traveled to my mom's parent's place for her side of the family's Christmas. Tompers: Nope! I stayed at home and family came round and chilled. <3

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

BTSInDarkness: Uhh... Umm... My New Year's Resolution is the think of a New Year's Resolution. Mrch_: My new year's resolutions are definitely to stop drinking soda xD. Sleep earlier, make it in the high school track team this year, and join back my soccer team FKK U15.



STORY WRITING COMPETITION



Ever want to bring your favorite celebrity on Mineplex for a day? Or, what about play some of our games with one of Mineplex's own celebrities? Think about it: which celebrity would you spend the day with? What games would you two play? What else would you do? We asked you, the community, these questions, and here are some of the Mineplex Newsletter Team's favorites. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we did!

A BeauTEAful Day by Banksy

A day in the life of a casual gamer fiend to be sitting quietly in the black of my room playing under the name "Banksy" little did I know that from the shadows a ghost was haunting me I harked to a soft whisper, "close your eyes on the count of three" so I did as told and closed my hazel eyes, naturally "un… deux… trois…, now your soul shall be set free" upon opening my eyes I saw a translucent tree "this is a vast land inside a Swedish developed block game" said he I knew from the media what this was, Minecraft - a casual gamers blissful spree the man was dropped in clothes and smeared with water from the glimmering sea , knew just who he was by his drink in hand immediately "you're... the guy that invented tea? Friedlieb Runge?" I said, as he gave me a key "yes" he said, "this silver key will open this here chest" - I watched with glee such a small object could be so powerful, it must be used very wisely I unlocked the chest and the rest is history inside my container lay something so beautifully I spoke, and to the awe of everyone I was to believe Mr. Runge is a genie 13 TEA Banksy: I used to be a high level like you then I took a stats reset to the knee everyone scrambled to find what this rank meant, but I decided to make a party /party FriedliebRunge, I did - then I realized... this is ancient Mineplex or so I could foresee we entered the portal, a vicious game of Dragons - my favorite, and in good company my moves were swift, my head held high and my body embracing for the pity it was extremely difficult, after Mr. Runge died he said "much edgy, what gutsy" the internet engulfed the mind of my friend, but then it happened... a Dragons victory l awoke with a startle, in my bed, tea by my side, confused but smiling happily I realized the rank was fake, 'tis a shame for a pure tea enthusiast trustee a letter under the tea mug staring me down intensely "Dear Banksy, you're now Sir. Banksy, Duke of English Breakfast" Signed, F. Runge, Inventor of tea.





Me and Diar by MCluvgames

I strolled along the cobblestone bricks as I glanced up at Diar. "Diar," he looked up at me, "what would you say is your favourite game on Mineplex? Must be a hard decision..." He smirked back at me. "Not really," he chuckled, "Sky Wars is a personal preference of mine." "No way!" I jumped back in surprise, nearly falling and scraping my elbow onto the dry cobblestone. He burst out in laughter. "You alright?" He snickered as he helped me up. "Yeah..." My cheeks burned hot red of embarrassment. "It's just that Sky Wars happens to be my favourite game." I explained to him. "Would you like to play Sky Wars Teams with me then?" He smiled at me. "Team with an Admin? For sure!" I happil<u>y</u> grinned.

"Grab the diamonds," I told Diar. He nodded and started mining away at the rocky stones using his shiny iron pickaxe. I stood as a lookout and managed to egg a player off their dirt bridge. "Here." Diar said as he handed me the heavy aqua sword. "Shall we go?" He asked me. I nodded in response. He quickly made a bridge out of the birch wood from the tree on our island. We spotted another team nearby us and charged right at them. After a huge struggle, their team was vanquished. Diar handed me some soup and it healed me almost instantly. "Thanks." I managed to tell him, my mouth still full of the creamy mushroom soup. He nodded and we continued to the middle of the island.

"Only us and one other team are left." He informed me cautiously. I nodded to him understandingly as I clutched the TNT in my hand. As the island cracked and crumbled, I finally spotted the other team. "Over here!" I yelled at Diar. "Coming!" He reassured me. We caught the team by surprise and managed to kill them with our TNT. "We won!" I laughed with glee. "Yay!" He smiled.

"That was loads of fun." He chuckled, I nodded in agreement. "Say, want to try some parkours?" My eyes filled with wonder and happiness. "Sure!" I scanned the lobby but did not find any in view. "Um.." I said, not too sure how to ask him. "What is it?" He asked me. "Where's the parkour?" I asked confused. "Oh!" He laughed. "I didn't build it yet." "Oh." I finally understood why I couldn't see it. I sighed. I watched as he carefully measured the blocks, making sure they were separated at a jump-able distance. I saw him use a variety of different materials. The lustrous white quartz is what really stood out to me. It shone so brightly in the broad sunlight so much that it was hard to miss at a first glance. "Try it out." Diar said with delight. Obviously he was happy with his work. "Alrighty." I took a hop and landed on a slippery and wet ice block. I landed so hard that I nearly slid off. I glared towards Diar who was laughing hysterically. "You're not gonna make this easy are you?" I questioned him. "Not a chance." He snickered back at me. I jumped and missed the quartz block just out of reach to me. I fell and bruised my right knee on the cobblestone that laid beneath me. Diar ran up to me. "You alright?" He asked in a worried tone. "I'm fine." I smiled. I watched as relief flooded through his body. "Since that new winter update is out," I said, trying to get our minds off of the incident that had just occurred, "I'm go open some Winter Chests. Maybe I'll get lucky." He nodded and followed me towards one of the chests. "I only have enough shards for one." I told him. "Good luck!" I watched as he crossed his fingers, hoping I'd get something good. I walked up to my first chest and pushed it open, all I got were 32 snowballs. I sighed. "Don't worry about that one!" Diar reassured me. I nodded and opened my second chest. "Candy cane particles!" I shouted in delight. I slowly creaked open my third chest. "Frost lord particles!" I yelled in surprise. "Whoa!" Diar jumped back in surprise. I walked up towards my fourth chest and slowly peaked inside it. I nearly fainted as I screamed to the top of my lungs, "Legendary Grinch Hat!" "You got very lucky..." Diar said as he stood there in absolute shock. "Alright, I've got to go feed Finn now." He told me. "No problem! It was nice seeing you Diar." I smiled at him. "You too!" He smirked at me before leaving me all alone in the lobby to ponder about the day I had. Best day ever I thought to myself as I clicked the disconnect button without any hesitation.



SUPER SURVEYS!

2015; a year in which Mineplex has productively and constantly been producing games, maps and hundreds of thousands of memories in which people will hold onto going into the new year. Updates have ranged from several new Admins, to huge map updates; the Staff, Builders and Developers have all been hard at work under the supervision of multiple team leads, Admins and of course, two heads of staff in which we have seen implanted over the course of the 12 months. Here are a few of the following memorable moments we have selected.

A largely hyped update in which Mineplex announced late in December, 2014, became one of the most anticipated gamemodes Mineplex has ever seen. On November 25th, 2015, Mineplex released Clans Alpha. SamitoD, the Clans Management Admin, said that he felt that Clans was coming along great and that the team is fully aware of what to work on before full release. As for the Clans Management team, Syclone became part of not only the leadership as a game design and project lead, but he produced what we now know as the Legendary Weapons of Clans. 32% of people found their favorite weapon to be the Wind Blade. However, this was not the end of the hype, creativity, or hard work. Throughout the year, Mineplex has released a total of 11 games, excluding Clans. In a poll, Mineplex players found Skywars and Bomb Lobbers to be the most enjoyable games released this year. However, the overall favored section is Arcade, closely followed by Champions and Survival. Of course with a large amount of games comes the need for new maps and updates. In July last year, Mineplex released its biggest ever map overhaul of a whopping 47 maps in which the Build Team worked really hard to produce; a fix for other map bugs was also pushed.

Next to this, in the most recent month, Mineplex saw the release of four Winter Updates; this consisted of new maps, a large fix of Super Paintball, Seasonal Lobbies, and of course, the return of everyone's favorite game: Christmas Chaos. This Christmas, the Mineplex Build Team went above and beyond in producing one of the most eye catching winter lobbies Mineplex has ever seen. The players found that the release of new games and bug fixes was the best part of the updates, closely followed by the likings of Christmas Chaos. Finally, throughout last year, the staff team has changed dramatically with us seeing two new Head of staffs, several Admin resignations and promotions, and the new addition of the Leadership Team which we know and love. Jarvis, the newly promoted Forums Admin, told us: "During the short three months that I was an Admin, I have been working with the LTs and the teams to increase the Staff Team's interaction with the community while making necessary changes to the rules in order to make the Forums a better place for everyone. There's still more that needs to be done in the future, of course. Mineplex has came a long way since the beginning of 2015. More games were added, lots of community events were hosted, and I'm sure there will be more fun and exciting content to come in 2016 for everyone!" The new Staff Team has brought improvement to Mineplex in many new ways, which we can expect to continue as 2016 begins.

Overall, it's safe to say that Mineplex was very productive last year and as we go into the new year, we can be sure to expect the same again.



TRAINEE

INTERVIEWS!

SOIGNE

Q: Any nicknames you go by?

Some people call me Swan.

Q: When were you accepted for Trainee?

I was accepted on December 5th, 2015. :P

Q: Any batch names?

We actually call ourselves the #CookiesBatch, as we're the "batch of cookies fresh out of the oven", or at least we were when we were all accepted, haha.

Q: What was your first reaction to getting Trainee?

Well, I was actually in an airport when I was accepted, so I was just walking through with my bag looking at my phone. I guess my first reaction when I saw that I was accepted was the feeling of my heart jumping into my throat and then a huge sigh of relief, haha! I had been applying for about six months, so I was really hoping for it on that app.

Q: How many applications did it take for you to get Trainee? Five.

Q: Any tips that you could give to future appliers?

Definitely understanding your strengths and weaknesses, as well as really knowing who you are and being true to why you want to join the staff team. I see so many players applying before they're ready, or applying before they really understand what it means to be a staff member. If you aren't ready for the position, understand that you aren't and work to improve the aspects that you feel would help you contribute to the staff team. If you feel you are ready and are passionate about it, just try your hardest. Looking back to when I first applied, I definitely can tell that I was not ready to join the staff team. Improving yourself with hard work will get you to where you want to be, and in this case, on the Staff Team. :)

Q: Are you enjoying your trial? Who is your mentor?

I'm actually really enjoying my trial a lot! I've met a lot of wonderful people and I continue to do so along the way, as well as just better understanding the community and the Staff Team itself. My mentor is Zilcor, who is just amazing and very helpful to all of us zebras (or what his mentee group is known as).

Q: Favorite moment as a Trainee so far?

My favorite moment so far was probably when I was accepted into Reports Patrol (which happened today actually). It's always been a "dream team" of mine since I love the Forums, so it was just a great overall feeling.

Q: What goals do you have for the future?

Well, I do have a few for the future. When it comes to subteams, I'm thinking about joining Apps when it opens up. I've always been fascinated in the Trainee application process, so it would be a lot of fun to be a part of that. I also am a little conflicted at the moment when it comes to my "dream team" as a SR. Mod, but I'm really leaning toward Community Management (especially community relations). I've always loved interacting with the community and getting to know others, so I feel like I'd definitely fit in there. Helping others and making sure players receive a positive experience from Mineplex is really important to me, and I want to make sure I can effectively demonstrate this as a staff member.



TRAINEE

INTERVIEWS!

3LECTRIC

Q: Any nicknames you go by? Not really, sometimes just Lectric.

Q: When were you accepted for Trainee? 11/20/15.

Q: Any batch names?

Because I have only one batch buddy, we named our batch LonelyBatch. This is my third acceptance, so my reactions for those were not as funny as my first, but I was still very excited.

Q: How many applications did it take for you to get Trainee?

Oh boy, the first time took me a while, but in total I think I have 13.

Q: Any tips that you could give to future appliers?

Be honest, detailed, and let the Apps team/Recruiters get to know more about you, show them what you're interested in, and what motivates you.

Q: Are you enjoying your trial? Who is your mentor?

I really am loving my time here on Mineplex! My mentor is Chailee, she is really helpful and makes the experience relaxing and enjoyable for her mentees!

Q: Favorite moment as a Trainee so far?

Probably playing Champions and talking to a lot of new people on the TeamSpeak server, I met a lot of people that I am now friends with.

Q: What goals do you have for the future?

I hope to become a Forum Ninja, it has been one of my biggest goals for a long time. I also have a smaller goal, which I try to accomplish every day, and that is to help somebody, or make their day.



ART COMPETITION!

In the spirit of the season, we decided to host an Art Competition back in December. The theme was the Holidays, and we would like to thank everyone for entering! However, we had to pick a winner. Please take a moment to recognize the following artist for her amazing work!

Artist: Sxnny



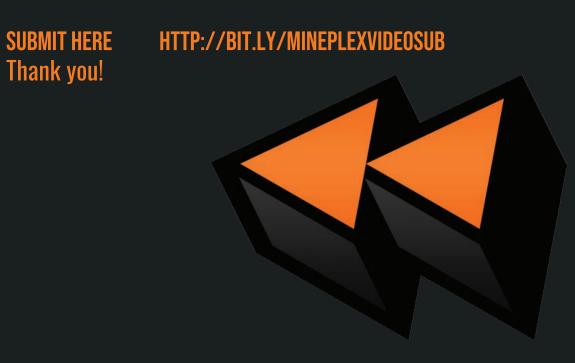


MINEPLEX REWIND!

Here on the Newsletter team, we are excited to present a project that we're hoping to work on for the future ahead! But we need your help to make it happen. In light of the recent New Year, have to decided to make a video showcasing the community and the server, along with all the updates that we've gone through, from the past twelve months!

What is your favorite part about Mineplex?

Please send in short clips of yourself on the server showing what you love about Mineplex, from playing games to hanging out in the lobby with your friends! Artwork and any type of screenshots are welcomed as well! We would love to see all types of creations being sent in and we would appreciate all submissions!



PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT ALL SUBMISSIONS MAY BE USED IN THE VIDEO. WE WILL STOP ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS WHEN THE NEXT Newsletter comes out, which will be around 2 weeks. If you have any concerns, feel free to contact dozzy or Ravenwings.





BY: TORTELETT



Dozzy: Hi! I'm Dozzy, the new Newsletter manager! I've been on the staff team for almost two years, and I'm currently on the Social Media team. I love running and playing golf as well as programming and creating websites! I'm always around in-game and on the forums, and I'd be happy to help you out and answer your questions.



Crumplex: Hey, I'm Crumplex! I'm a Sr. Mod on the Social Media Team. I manage the graphics for the newsletter, and have been helping design it since the third issue. Hope you enjoyed!



- -

WebGlitch: Hello there! My name is WebGlitch! I am the Social Media Admin and one of the first Newsletter managers. Hope you like this issue!

Tortelett: Hi! I am a moderator on the Media Team and Music Management Team! I was invited to make this issue of the newsletter since Crumplex, who usually makes it, was busy this week. Hope you enjoyed reading it!

AlexTheKitty: Greetings! I'm Alex, a Moderator, Performance Monitoring Assistant, and Newsletter Writer/Editor here on Mineplex. I love to interact with the community, and you will usually find me in-game, on TS, or on the forums. I play certain sports, and love to do community service. See you around! c:



xLouis: Heyo! I'm a Louis, a moderator here at Mineplex. Currently, I am on three sub teams and aspiring to be a mentor on either Trainee Management or Mod Coordination. My favourite games are Champions and SG but you will quite frequently find me on the forums. I enjoy food, a lot of food.



RavenWings: Hello! I am currently a Senior Moderator on the ModCoordination team, alongside of being a writer on the Newsletter team. I am obsessed with cats, and enjoy taking long walks on the beach.



PleaseTeamlFan: Hey there! ^-^ My name is Zach, and I am a Senior Moderator and a member of the Mod Coordination team. I enjoy playing basketball, soccer, and frisbee in my free time. I also like to think I have a knack for photography. If you ever want to talk, or just say hi, you can find me on TeamSpeak or in-game! c:



xStar_89: Hiya! I'm Star, currently a Moderator and am on 4 sub-teams including the Newsletter Team. I love meeting new people and trying new things, music, and ice-cream. I'm usually on TeamSpeak and in-game, so I hope to see you around! x)



STAFF BIOS



iPBJSammich: Heya! I'm iPBJSammich, currently a Mineplex Mod on the Application Staff, Player Surveillance, Karaoke Hosts, and the Newsletter Teams! I enjoy relaxing and playing MC in my free time. I am really eager to see new people, and love having a good time! Just message me whenever, I'd be delighted to talk! <3



cyber700: Heya! I'm cyber, ciber, ceber and every spelling mistake you can make on 'cyber'! I'm currently on two sub-teams, one being the Newsletter Team. I was only accepted to the newsletter team on the 24th December, but I'm already enjoying my time on the team. I love playing tennis, and other ball-related games in my spare time :)



Snow_Sparrow: Hello! I am a Sr.Moderator on the Newsletter Team. I hope you enjoyed reading this issue of the Newsletter. Keep your eyes open: more issues will be coming out soon.



IDONTHAVE1: Greetings. I am currently a Mineplex Moderator on the Newsletter Program. I enjoy crocheting and other arts and crafts.



PrincessLivi: Hello there! I'm Livi. I participate not only on the Newsletter team, but also on the Apps Team here on Mineplex, and I hope to one day join the Sr. Mod team Trainee Management. Outside of MP I love ballet, cross country, and talking to new people! I hope you enjoy this month's issue of our newsletter!



Persistent: Hey there! My name is Persistent, and I am a moderator for Mineplex. I am part of the Newsletter program and I also work in the Applications team. I enjoy reading and writing, as well as meeting new friends! Enjoy this issue!



