# NEWSLETTER



<mark>lssue 66</mark> March 2021

Valentine's Day Update, Community Appreciation, The Seasonal Art Showcase, and more.

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Have any feedback? We'd love to hear it. Share with us on our <u>feedback form</u>!

## From the Editor

Despite being the shortest month, February can often feel like the longest part of the year. Hopefully that means you all had a delightfully long month full of spreading love and appreciation, and are filled with energy for the lovely 31 days of March! If not, perhaps reading articles filled with community submissions will nicely kickstart your month.

Though Valentine's Day may have passed, there are still plenty of opportunities to show some love to your community and to practice some good self-care. Interestingly, the first week of March is Read an Ebook Week, so you're both celebrating a fun holiday and checking a box off the list if you read through the rest of this edition. March 4th is World Book Day, so you're already ahead of the game, too; hopefully that makes you feel productive! Additionally, the seasonal equinox is on Saturday, March 20th this year in case you need an extra day to look forward to new beginnings or just another reason to celebrate.

March marks about a year since many people began to experience major changes to their lives. The introduction of another source of stress has certainly been unwelcome, as well. Hopefully the discussion of silly holidays and weeks above has served as a reminder to take some time for yourself and make sure you are finding things to do that you enjoy whenever possible. I'm constantly amazed by the Mineplex community's ability to engage with each other whether it be through random conversations in lobbies or large organized events. In terms of the Newsletter-specific readership base, whether you are a loyal reader or a newcomer, I appreciate all of you taking some time out of your busy schedules to read through this edition.

As always, if you have anything to say or any questions about the Newsletter or the team, feel free to reach out to me via the forums or Discord. Otherwise, you can always submit comments or feedback on this edition through our <u>official form</u> or on the thread. I hope you enjoy the March edition of the Mineplex Newsletter!

Have a lovely March and be sure to find some fun and random holidays!

- AGLThree, Newsletter Program Manager

## Valentine's Day Update By AGLThree

Once again, Valentine's Day on Mineplex brought not just love but the return of a certain rose-themed seasonal update on the Java network! The update was initially teased the day before Valentine's Day with the release of Valentine Treasures both in-game and on the shop, stirring up excitement for the official release of Rose Rush and Love Chests on Valentine's Day. Players received a special seasonal mission, 'Rose Rush', which asked them to win five games of the fast-paced event game in exchange for an abundance of experience and shards, as well as a 2021-specific title, Rose Lover. Though 2021 did not bring major new twists to Valentine's Day on Mineplex, players were able to catch up on missing cosmetics and continue to enjoy the popular seasonal game.

Especially since the update was similar to last year's, I was curious about the community's reception of the 2021 Valentine's Day update and what people's general thoughts about the seasonal event were. I sat down with YTK\_BOWSER, a Rose Rush enthusiast, and Bobert2013, a Community Council member and dedicated player, in order to hear more about their opinions on Valentine's Day 2021 on Mineplex and their hopes for future years.

## What were your thoughts on the Valentine's Day update this year?

YTK\_BOWSER: I thought the Valentine's Day update was alright. The hub changes were good and I'm glad Rose Rush came back. I definitely played it a lot. I achieved over 1000 wins this year and played a ton of close games against other good parties. They were really fun (if the other team didn't cheat) and I got to really understand the game to outplay my opponents. I don't think there were many changes compared to last year's update, that I remember at least.

Bobert2013: I think overall it was pretty good - a lot of the yearly things were brought back, mainly Rose Rush and the Valentines Chests. On top of that, was the return of the Love Chests. This was something that I really liked seeing as people finally had the chance to get the incredibly loved Blow a Kiss taunt again. The Valentine's Day hub was also really cute. Again, as a whole, everything was received quite well and I'm happy with how it was done!

## What was your favorite part of the update? Least favorite?

YTK\_BOWSER: My favorite part of the update was being able to play Rose Rush. In December, I was scared that Snow Fight might not re-release but luckily all the holiday games were still intact to play. There were two things I disliked about the update. There were no new cosmetics, and rose rush lobbies were broken. As broken I mean you could not use the /nbg command.

Bobert2013: My favorite part of the update is probably what I mentioned above with the Love Chests. Even better was that people could buy them with shards in game as well, so those who were saving up shards for this moment actually had the chance to open the chests and find the cool cosmetics! Regarding least favorite is probably two things. First of which was the fairly late release of the update (on Valentines Day itself with the Hub coming out even later). The second was the fact that the Valentines Day gadget was unfortunately disabled and not rewarded through playing Rose Rush.

#### What would you want to see on Mineplex for Valentine's Day in 2022?

YTK\_BOWSER: I would want new cosmetics to be added in next year's update. Also, if at all possible, I would like for Rose Rush lobbies to be fixed. Having to hub instead of typing /nbg was an inconvenience while playing. Gardener's pretty useless but I don't really see any changes for that kit. Plus everyone loves either having a leap/having a bow so no changes would drag interest, like it's probably impossible for any sweats to enjoy Gardener [without changes]. Overall, the Valentine's update is good but these changes would add to the experience.

Bobert2013: It would be pretty cool to see some new content entirely; obviously it isn't a priority for development time by any means but seeing a new version of Rose Rush would be extremely exciting. New cosmetics and the like would be fun to have as well. After all, who's going to complain about new content?! Thank you to YTK\_BOWSER and Bobert2013 for taking the time to sit down with me and discuss this year's Valentine's Day update! Hopefully these conversations provided you with additional perspective and a variety of viewpoints on the most recent update. If you have any ideas for future Valentine's Days on Mineplex or for other seasonal events in general, be sure to post your ideas in the relevant section of the forums!

Even beyond the update, love was in the air on Mineplex this past month and hopefully everyone was able to experience it. While 2021 did not bring new changes to Valentine's Day on Mineplex, everyone still had the opportunity to enjoy the competitive seasonal game, the chance to obtain old cosmetics, and have the special mission to complete. This event is typically the first of Mineplex's seasonal events each year, so looking ahead towards future holidays, perhaps we can expect some twists and turns to future updates. Happy belated Valentine's Day!

# Valentine's Day: Community Appreciation By WowCaleb

Goodbye January, and hello February! No matter how long the USA winter is, dismal weather and gray skies begin to subside as we enter the second month of the calendar year. It's officially that time when love starts to blossom in the air: Valentine's Day! Some might buy flowers for a special someone, some might gift their favourite person a box of chocolates, and Mineplex players might send their fellow community members a message of appreciation. This year, to celebrate the occasion, we set up a form where community members could share their love with each other. In this edition of the Mineplex Newsletter, we will be taking the responses and sharing these words of affection to the public! Every player on Mineplex makes a difference, and without them, this article wouldn't be a reality. The entire community deserves to be recognised and appreciated for keeping spirits high.

We received many responses to the form that was sent out, and unfortunately it was not possible for everyone's to be included. Whether you see your name or you don't, have it be known that you are appreciated for everything - big or small - that you contribute to the network. It is our hope the words of kindness that are to follow will put a smile on your face no matter who they are directed towards. Without beating around the bush any longer, let's take a look at what our community members have to say about one another!

#### From: LT Tombstone 77 To: Syrenical

"Thank you for being such a kind and supportive friend. You've always been so nice to me, and you've helped me get through some tough times. You always know how to make me laugh, and I know I can always talk to you if I need to. We've shared so many great memories together, and I'm grateful to have gotten to know you. Keep being the amazing person you are, and thanks for always being there for me <3"

#### From: Anonymous To: syrenical, cloudyanika

"Hey! I just wanted to say thanks for everything. Although you guys haven't been with me since the beginning, it certainly feels like it. You've both helped me through a lot, especially in tough situations and you always seem to get me out of them. You guys definitely manage to put a smile on my face when I talk to you and that alone makes my day. You know I really couldn't have been more lucky to meet people like you guys, honestly I really mean it and I hope you know that. So yeah, sorry for the cheesy message but I felt I should say something. Once again, thanks and keep being you <33"

#### To: jacvb From: skarm

jacob where do i begin!! we've known each other for a few years now and though we didn't become close until recently, i feel like i can call you one of my closest friends. from playing mineplex to overwatch to screaming taylor swift songs in call, any time i spend with you is time spent well. even though you BULLY ME AT TIMES, i know you always mean well. I hope nothing but love and prosperity follows you in the future.

#### From: Mothy was here To: Zersara

"Hey zer! i am super glad to have you as my best friend and you mean the world to me. i honestly could not feel any luckier than having you. we make a very good duo especially on snow fight and overall, you're just a very pleasant and nice person who i would always love to hang around with and play mineplex with. you deserve all the luck coming to you. hope you don't encounter any of those big spiders in Australia. ;D"

#### From: Anonymous

#### To: Dezzy (aka dvzzy aka Deseract aka Sir\_Boom aka SchoolLunches) "Hey, you're Dezzy and you're a noob to the end! Hidey-ho! Can't say I'm kidding, but you're actually amazing. Very kind and caring to others, and you have a good sense of humor. Although you worry me sometimes, (especially with your hatred towards dolls LMAO), you're very fun to talk to and I'm glad we've been talking more lately because you're a really great friend. And yes I'm writing this because I missed out on the Thanksgiving note thing and no you can't judge me. You're welcome for the call out btw, sorry not sorry <3"

#### From: Anonymous To: Andrew

"(If you even see this) Hi Andrew you suck Imao L I missed the Thanksgiving notes and tbh didn't know they were a thing sooo (say a prayer that I'm not repetitive while I write this out btw) you've been an amazing and supportive friend and we've made a lot of jokes/ memories together, which I am very thankful for. I'm glad I was finally able to get discord and that we can talk more now, and that you've actually stuck around lol even if I made it hard. (Where's that prayer) anyways... get good?? Thanks <3"

#### From: Anonymous To: Claudia (MalibuNights)

"hi claudia, i hope you aren't surprised to see your name here because you truly deserve this note. you are an absolutely amazing person, and whether you believe it or not you've actually made quite an impact on my life. in a good way, of course. i love talking to you, whether it's about music, life in general, or anything really. i hope a lot of good things come your way very quickly, you seriously deserve an amazing life. good luck guessing who this is from btw, although the typing style probably gives it away. love you girl <3"

#### From: scturn To: HCTE

"thank you for sticking around with me for the past 7 years, i'm endlessly appreciative for you and you've taught and shown me so much. without you i wouldn't have joined mineplex 6 years ago and wouldn't have come back last year! i love you :D"

#### From: Anonymous To: Laylq

"I have seen you around the community, and you always do a great job helping the players out. I appreciate you and all the hard work you put into the server. Happy Valentines! :)"

#### From: 20LeeBrian1 To: Jacvb, xUmbreon, PieOrPi

"You guys helped me become a better player, and you are really nice and funny!"

#### From: maevestarbaby To: Virlrae

"I found you, and you found me ♡ To Neptune and back, a thousand times over."

# The Seasonal Art Showcase

#### By neotheater

It's that time of year again! After welcoming in 2021 with open arms, a new season is now upon us, and it's time to share some of our favorite artworks from the one gone-by. Whether you're in the northern, winter hemisphere or the southern, summer hemisphere, the forthcoming of a new season is always a magical experience. Mother nature can truly change a landscape, and it's beautiful.

Mineplex is full of talented artists from all across the globe, and we know our community loves to see all of their masterpieces! In this article we will show nine of our favourite artists from the past season along with some of their artworks.

If you would wish to be included in next season's art showcase, be sure to share your art in the #art-club on the Discord or 'Arts and Banner Showcase' on the forums!

#### **Digital Art:**

This is one of the most impressive and wide-spread art styles out there due to there being so much variety. People can create whole other worlds, people, and creatures through means of digital art. Here are three digital artists that really stood out this season:

#### Avwa





#### neotheater



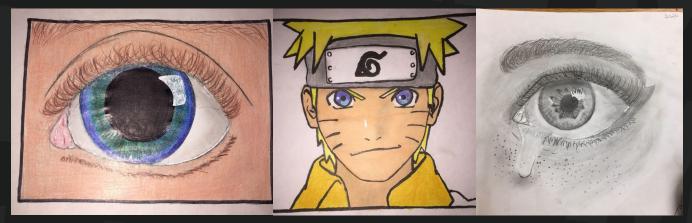
510bike



#### Traditional Art:

This type of artwork has been around for thousands of years ever since man first learned to carve in cave walls. Something about being good at traditional art has fascinated humans for centuries, and being able to draw a masterpiece merely with pencil and paper is a talent that not many of us possess. The following three artists have shown that they have this incredible talent:

#### XxDarkWolfxX466 (Cxpics)



#### BadgerInASuit

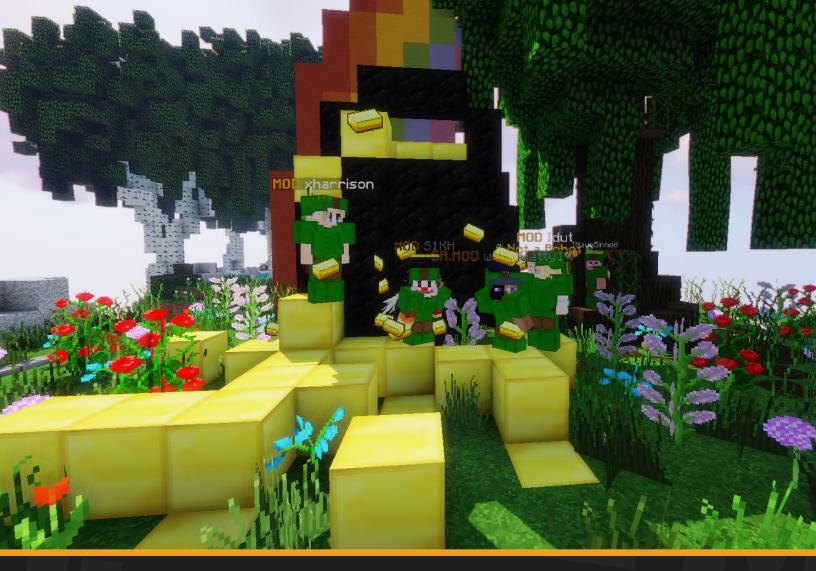


#### Squiishy





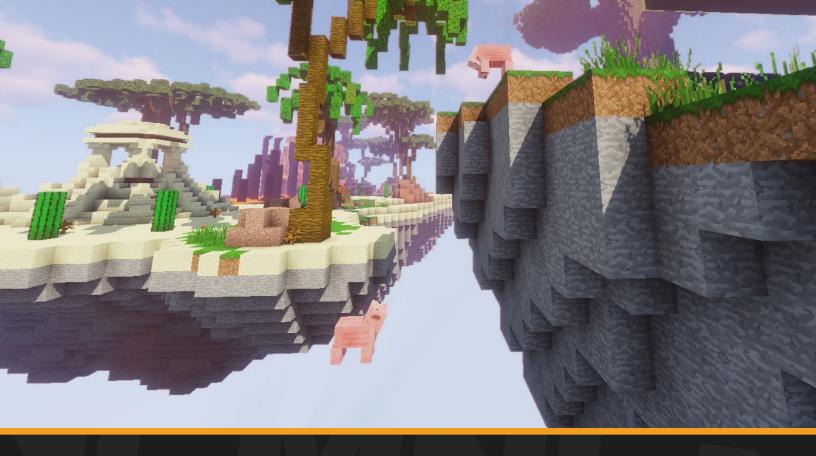
That concludes our showcase for this season. We hope you all enjoyed seeing these talented artists, and we can't wait to see even more of your artworks in the future!



## Caption the Image By Marzie

Bbbrrrr... It's so cold in North America! Thankfully, Spring and St. Patrick's day are almost here. Speaking of St. Patrick's day, we found 5 leprechauns in a lobby on Mineplex. It seems that these leprechauns found just what they were looking for: a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. Two of them, Idut and xharrison, seem to be talking to each other. Another two, wattywatty14 and S1KH, seem to be weary or on guard. The last leprechaun seems to be sitting on the tree in the shade. What could ldut and xharrison be saying to each other? Are wattywatty14 and S1KH guarding their gold or are they scared of something?

Submit your caption(s) for this month's image here: https://forms.gle/C3oSa9WLr5TYTzqf6



Last month, we showed two pigs exchanging looks of rivalry as one falls into the void.

#### Here are our top 7 favorite captions for last month's image:

DivinePegasi: "When speedbridging goes wrong in skywars and your teammate watches you fall to your death with shame in their eyes" TeaSpiller: "Wait a minute, this doesn't look like bacon brawl to me?" ShadowWolfZoe: "Peppa.... Dont let go!!!!." "Long live the king." CloudXYZ15: "A small pig to pay for salvation" Pqk: "bro this isn't bacon brawl" Jylie: "I don't remember this scene from Romeo and Juliet" CloudyDay1234: "Comboing my friend in a 1v1 :D"

We received a lot of great captions this time around (20+!) and wanted to fit in as many as we could. We commend those that submitted a caption but weren't mentioned this month and encourage everybody to submit their captions for this month's new Caption the Image!

## February Staff Statistics By AGLThree

This month, we wanted to issue a huge welcome to all the new staff members who joined us and say thank you to all of the staff members who have sadly resigned for all of their hard work for the network.

#### Java Trainee

February 6: ReyBot February 13: joshuart\_, Karrotz\_, Vytas February 27: BREEZLET, Krkki (Cross-Platform)

#### **Bedrock Trainee**

February 6: CloudyDay1234, printiel February 27: aahad7851, I Amg I, neotheatter, rilauu, rosmeme, thefrogkidd, Wattywatty1414 (Cross-Platform)

Senior Moderator February 13: Evgeen (Quality Assurance)

Developer February 7: konsolas

#### Resignations

January 30: Sobenbinder February 7: mlnty February 14: illum\_, Sickel (Community Management) February 19: skreb February 22: lm\_Ken February 25: Nimpy February 28: ThanksPyro (Community Management)

**1 Year Milestones** February 22: oCassi, SpamL, xEspeon

**2 Year Milestones** February 2: Nolawn, Sickel, Sven February 13: Ocelotguyy February 23: ThanksPyro

**3 Year Milestones** February 9: Oscaros\_ February 24: Arjun

**4 Year Milestones** February 10: rosmeme

# Meet the Team



**AGLThree:** Hola! I'm AGLThree and I lead the Newsletter Program! I'm currently a Sr. Mod on Recruitment and an RP mentor. I'm a Grey's Anatomy fan and enjoy doing ceramics. Somehow, I still haven't gotten the Connect 4 gadget, which feels statistically unlikely at this point.



Tortelett: RIP DAFT PUNK



**Arjun:** Yo! I'm Arjun and I'm a Rules Committee member and Sr. Recruiter / manager under the Recruitment team. Other than Newsletter, I'm also on Reports Patrol, Game Insights, and the Content Creator Council. Some of my favorite hobbies consist of driving, hanging out with friends, and playing videogames. I hope you enjoyed this month's issue of the Newsletter!



Sophie\_OGrady: Hi, I edit the newsletter.

# Meet the Team



**jacvb:** Howdy, I'm Jacob! I'm a writer and an editor for the newsletter and a member of Community Management and Quality Assurance. Outside of Mineplex, you'll catch me listening to a lot of music and watching Netflix.



**Marzie:** It's a me, Marzie! I am an Ex-FN and a current Event Squad member that runs Staff Events, Content Creator Events and does Website QA/Feedback things for most of my time. On the side, I also do Forum Mod, Reports Patrol Assistance, Ideas Team, Newsletter (writer, ex-editor), CCC, and I also Co-Lead CMP. Learn my entire history with Mineplex and more about me on my profile in the information tab.



**EmmaLie:** Hiya! I'm Emily and I'm that one weirdo who loves lollipops and doing stuff for the community. I'm currently the admin of Community Management & the Event Squad, so you'll see me a lot in-game, especially in EVENT-1. Outside of Mineplex, a lot of my time goes toward family, friends, Netflix, and Overwatch.

# Meet the Team



**510bike:** Hi! My name is 510bike, and I'm currently a writer and editor for the Newsletter! I'm also currently a Sr.Mod on the Social Media team, a cross-platform staff member, and I am a member of RA, RPA, and FM. Outside of Mineplex, I'm into martial arts, photography, and mock trial! Feel free to say hello if you ever see me around!



**neotheater:** when the darkness turns to light, all the trouble fades away into nothing. when the moon can touch the sky, all the love in your heart i can see it rising. when the cloud cover starts to break, you will feel the sun raise over your shoulders. when a star moves in your hand, use your eyes and don't be waiting for too long.



**WowCaleb:** Wow, it's Caleb! Let's pretend I didn't say that and start over - I'm a community member and a writer for the Newsletter. You'll most likely find me in my natural habitat playing Nano Games, or posting over on the forums. If I'm not on Mineplex, I'm probably banana boating or kayaking down the local river! Be sure to stop by and say hi if you ever see me around! And yes, it did hurt having to change "Moderator" to "community member".

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**chhase:** Hi!! I'm Chase, a Senior Mod & Forum Manager here at Mineplex! I'm also a member of Reports Patrol Assistance and an editor for the newsletter!!! When I'm not busy, my favorite things to do are watching movies, going hiking, and going on drives with the windows down. Also, I'm very bad at PVP so don't even.