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CREATED BY THE **NEWSLETTER** AND **MEDIA** STAFF

ISSUE **19**

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# MARCH EDITION

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ISSUE 19

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# ADMIN RESTRUCTURE!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

On February 6th, a brand new change affected Mineplex's Staff Team.

DeanTM is now the new Trainee Management Admin. He was the Documents, Trials, and Mentoring Manager of TM. He worked his way up, starting as a Trainee Bootcamp Mentor and moved to become a regular mentor once the program was disbanded.

Diar, the previous Trainee Management Admin, has been moved to the Social Media team. He had been on the team for a year and a half and became notable for being the voice of Trainee Acceptance Parties each Friday.

Will WebGlitch stay an admin? Yes he will. His role has not been revealed yet, but he will work in the background of a different division. A former Mod Coordination manager, he stepped up to the role of the Social Media admin and shaped its present system. Here at the Mineplex Newsletter, we thank him for everything he has done for us and for his team.



# GEM HUNTERS!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

Gem Hunters is an upcoming game that is being added onto the Mineplex server!

The concept of the game is to beat out 99 other players and gain gems in the process. You spend 100 gems to enter the game. Gems can be found scattered around the map, or earned by killing other players. Similar to Survival Games, you can loot chests to gain items such as weapons and armor. There are other items such as the “Chests of Holding,” which increase your inventory capacity so you can stock up on more stuff! You can also find yourself a mount - a loyal horse that you can take with you on the adventure. And if you’re brave enough, risk everything and rush to supply drops for amazing gear. Particle effects, shards, and rank upgrades are some of the illustrious items that you can cash out with after a specific cooldown. If you want to leave and want to keep your gems, you may cash out but you will lose your loot.

BETA testing began for Power Play members and will be released soon to the public. We’re super excited to see where this game goes.





# QA INTERVIEW!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

We interviewed two members of the Quality Assurance team, Hylore and Zaakery. This team specializes in identifying and squashing bugs in order to retain excellence in our games. In this interview, uncover the processes behind game creation and the lives of these two hard-working QA members!

## What do you do on QA?

**Hylore:** I'm currently working on testing and helping refine games in the pipeline for the community. I'm a member of both the PE and PC teams, and on both teams we're always testing something and trying to squash bugs. Recently, we've been focusing on increasing the transparency between QA and the community.

**Zaakery:** I am a QA Manager alongside Artix. Simply put, we are Relyh's right hand men. We manage all the divisions of QA (PC, PE, QAT, GI) and are put to any management responsibility that we are assigned. QA Managers look over every division, but do have special focuses which usually end in us maintaining the majority of the responsibility for it. Personally, I manage PE QA and QAT. Artix manages GI, and we both manage PC with Relyh, though that is not an official title; just in the job description. In regards to what I do specifically, QA Managers are involved with development projects from the beginning of their development. We communicate with developers and their progress with the project as well as brainstorm any early input to help the quality of the project. Last, but most definitely not the least, we see through that every project is carried out through our full QA team to the best of our ability.

## How are new games created?

**Hylore:** Sigils is responsible for designing and directing our game creation process. All members of the design team are heavily involved in iterating the general concepts within the game. After the game enters early development, QA is tapped to make sure the game goes in the right direction and is ready to play when the time comes to release.

## How do you collaborate with Game Insights?

**Hylore:** When we're working on games that need their feedback, we're working pretty closely with them to make sure that members of the community and new players will find what we do and offer enjoyable. GI is run by Artix - so we're always pretty closely connected - especially within the newer projects that we're taking on with the Community Assistance team.

**Zaakery:** Currently, GI is one of our main consultants when we are working on a project that involves a game already on the network. Their opinions have been a major voice in any recent balance updates or tweaks we have made to current games and will continue to be.

# QA INTERVIEW!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

## How are games tested?

**Hylore:** Our team is trained and signs non-disclosure agreements in order to test games in some secret labs that Mineplex has built all over the place.

**Zaakery:** When the time comes where a project is developed far enough to begin a playable test, Artix, Relyh or I will organize QA as neatly as possible to try and get everyone involved with the testing process. We crunch through it from start to finish and are in communication with the whole QA team to make sure their feedback is heard and we can make the product as smooth as possible. When feedback is received, we wait until the developer gives us another green light after working around QA's feedback and we keep going until everyone is satisfied! Sometimes you can catch us testing if you check the server your online QA friend is in! :)

## What do you want to improve on the server?

**Hylore:** I really want to improve the older games on the network and refocus on identifying some of the key factors that we can improve on to get us back to where we've been previously. We've really reoriented the team in the recent months, and we're excited for the new upcoming projects we have and everyone on the team is really dedicated to putting 110% into them.

**Zaakery:** The biggest thing I want to improve is the community's perception on how this all works, because I often see a lot of people being troubled with updates we put out that can have a lot to do with lack of understanding! I think this interview is definitely a step in that right direction. However, as this question is more specifically asking, I would love to see more attention given to stuff we already have on the network. I think everyone agrees with me there! Who knows when that'll happen?! Certainly not me! ;)

## What do you do outside of Mineplex and Minecraft?

**Hylore:** I'm a captain for my robotics team where I've been working on a lot of cool projects, I've been studying user experience design for around 2 years, and I'm currently pursuing an internship on capitol hill at the United States senate. Outside of the boring and stressful stuff, I really love talking about politics, law, and writing, and giraffes.

**Zaakery:** Currently I'm just going along a pretty simple teenage life. I hang out with my closest friends that mean the absolute world to me, I work, and I'm a full-time student! More specifically, I play a lot of games and play a lot of instruments. I would give the list for both, but I think I'm already stretching it in my previous questions. I'll give my favorites though! Currently my favorite video games to play are Overwatch and CS:GO, and my favorite instruments to play are the piano, guitar, and saxophone. :)

# ST. PATRICKS DAY Q&A

BY: IPBJSAMMICH

We here at the Mineplex Newsletter, seeing as a certain, green holiday is fast approaching, have found it fit to include a Q&A session about St. Patty's Day! A forum thread was set up to record responses, some of the responses are recorded down below. Thanks to all who replied and gave your feedback; I hope you enjoy!

**Do you have any special traditions during St. Patrick's that go outside the norm?**

**Runkia:** Well, my family and I usually attend the official St. Patrick's parade in Ireland. Also, we wear a lot of green, both at home and at school. We also do a lot of learning in school, all about St. Patrick and his day! (mineplex.com/profile/15104083)

**OnlyMinty:** Not really. Just the same thing any person does, wear green, get free chocolate, help kids hide gold... (mineplex.com/profile/minty)

**Are you the type of person to leave the people not wearing green alone, pinch them lightly, or put them in as much pain as possible?**

**xNibs:** I ensure that they spent the rest of their lives wishing they'd worn green on that fateful day, where they were unfortunate to come across me when I was carrying my torture equipment in my backpack. (mineplex.com/profile/nibs)

**RainbowUnicornGamer:** Nope. No matter what color someone is wearing, I don't do anything to put them in pain. I don't like to put somebody in pain anyway. (mineplex.com/profile/12279799)

**Do you plan on attending any parades or other special events?**

**YGladius02:** Yep, my town holds a St. Patrick's day parade every year. (mineplex.com/profile/13895782)

**futurepresident:** My Uncle is the Irish ambassador to America so we fly to his home / castle in Ireland and have a big game of golf. (mineplex.com/profile/16486694)

# SPRING POETRY COMPETITION!

BY: SUSPICIOUS

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Over the past week, we've been gathering Spring-themed pieces from our most talented poets in the entire network (everyone)! It's certainly been a tough contest to judge, but here are our final rulings for this season's best poems. Thanks to all who participated in this event!

## Spring Born by Runkia

Looking around, inspired to see,  
What the froideur world, is soon to be.  
No more sharp and pointy icicles,  
People begin to take out their bicycles.  
The snow starts to melt to bright slosh,  
Caused by the sun, so very posh.  
Flocks of birds sprinkle the sky,  
In silhouette patterns as they fly by.  
Flowers now don't need to hide,  
They outburst colour and shine with pride.  
And at the end, what we all want to see,  
Little hedgehogs emerge from the nearby tree.

## So Lovely, Captivated by InkWings (Bansky)

Broken and disappointed,  
lonesome and hated,  
and what a shame,  
that my heart beat's outdated,  
but in this despair,  
come close if you dare;  
(come closer she then hissed,  
come closer if you dare).  
Lay with me under the trees,  
sit with me under shining stars,  
hold me if you please,  
lets drive fast in your car,  
we can go down the highway  
and live life our way.  
But in this springtime bliss,  
as I give your neck a kiss,  
I think how I was once hated,  
but now I feel lovely,  
so lovely, captivated.

## (Unnamed) by kevithebear

As my eyes begin to adjust to the awakening sunrise, the true beauty of Spring commences to unfold. The harmonizing sounds of nature take over my sense of hearing, as my final drops of melancholy are disappearing. A comforting sense of tranquility is brought into the air, which diminishes much of my despair. Everlasting sets of blooming flowers uncover my smile, one in which I've never seen in quite a while. Spring has discovered my lost soul, and now I have become once again whole.



# COMMUNITY ART-OFF!

BY: ICEFALL

This month we hosted a Spring-themed community art-off! Thanks to all who participated and here are the wonderful artists we chose to feature this time around.

Rinnn:



GriffinD:



LegitFox / Chris:



InkWings / Banksy:



Shikero:



# GUESS THE LOCATION!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

Put all the time you spend roaming the Mineplex lobby to good use with our official Newsletter game; Guess the Location! For those of you who have yet to play, the rules are simple! We will provide a zoomed-in screenshot of a random location taken anywhere in our lobby, using the Google Form provided, you'll submit a guess stating where the screenshot was taken! More information will be provided on the form.

Three players that guessed correctly will be randomly chosen, rewarded two Mythical Chests, and announced in our next Newsletter!

Now, lets get ready to play! Here is this months' screenshot:



Submit your guesses here:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/XheSjWleZYmU5ie72>

Last but not least, here are last months' winners!

Peachyy  
FluffyUnicorn\_  
Purpliee

You three will be given two Mythical Chests as soon as possible!



# CAPTION THE IMAGE!

BY: IPBJSAMMICH

It's already March!?

Huh... For whatever reason, time really has been flying this year...

As usual, the objective of this game is to create the funniest, most accurate, or just plain silliest caption possible for the image provided each month! Winners of a given month are showcased in the next edition of the Newsletter! Give it a shot!

March seems to be the month of luck for many. With leprechauns hopping around all over the world, who knows? Maybe we'll all find our own pot of gold.



The Form for Responses: <https://goo.gl/forms/000q74PeiH2756h52> Good luck!

## Last Month's Winners

Peachyy - "I love you more than Kanye loves Kanye"

PieGuy12 - "Next week on The Real Housewives of Mineplex..."

iPandalols - "How sweet is this! Its just me, you and those creepy love particles hovering above us!"



# STAFF BIOS

BY: TORTELETT



**Emiliee:** Hey! I'm Emilie. If you ever need someone to talk to, feel free to message me on the forums! In my spare time I love playing volleyball and water polo.



**iPBJSammich:** Heyo! I'm iPBJSammich, and I've been a staff member on Mineplex since June 2015. I am currently on the Karaoke Hosts and Newsletter Teams, and have a lot of fun working with others on the staff team! If you ever see me, don't be afraid to say hello!



**xStar\_89:** Hey there! My name is Star, and I'm currently a Senior Moderator on Mod Coordination alongside being on different sub-teams, including the Newsletter Team! I love meeting new people and trying new things as well as music and ice-cream. I'm usually in-game and on TeamSpeak, so I hope to see you around!



**TorteleTT:** Hi! I am a moderator on the Newsletter, Media Team, and Build Team Media! I am in charge of designing and assembling all the written articles and images into this newsletter and making everything look pretty. Hope you enjoyed reading it!



**SuspiciOus:** Hi there, I'm SuspiciOus! I enjoy writing, animals, reading, and technology. I'm currently a Sr.Mod on Mineplex that works in the Quality Assurance division for the Mineplex Pocket Edition server.



**HisOneAndOnly:** Hello! My name is Hazel! I've been a staff member since January 8, 2016. I love reading and writing all forms of literature. I love interacting with players so if you see me around make sure to say hi!



**Kanebridge:** Hello I'm Kanebridge otherwise known as Kane, I am a Senior Mod on Mod Coordination! In my free time; I love drawing, playing instruments and sports, and writing. I'm always on Teamspeak so feel free to say hi :D



**Icefall:** Heya, I'm Ice! I joined the staff team on 9/9/16 and am now a Sr. Mod on Social Media. I also participate on the media, build team media and newsletter sub-teams; I love all things creative, whether it be arts or writing. Feel free to friend me on forums and PM me if you need anything (:



**CallMeCass:** Hey, I'm Cass! I've been a staff member since the 4th of March. I heavily enjoy writing, storytelling, reading, singing, drawing, and playing the violin! Aside from Newsletter, I am on four other sub-teams. I largely enjoy interacting with players, so if you see me around, feel free to say hi!