

MINIPELEX

NEWSLETTER



Issue 52
January 2020

Photography Competition, Christmas
Event, Ask Emily, and more.

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From the Editor

Every good story has an ending, and sadly, the story of my time on the Mineplex staff team is no exception. After nearly three years, my time to resign has come. It has been an amazing experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I have met so many amazing people, and I have made some great memories. I have learned a lot, both about the ins-and-outs of managing a team and communication, and about myself. It is hard to let go, but I know that it's for the best.

My time on the Newsletter Program has been fruitful. I have written about 21 articles over the last 13 months, all of which I am proud to have written and shared with you all. I took over the team 8 months ago, and since then, I have led two redesigns, a feedback initiative, several overhauls of the production process, and various other improvements to the team.

I am glad to have had this opportunity, and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life. One last time, thank you, reader, for taking the time to appreciate our work over the years. I am hopeful for the future of the Newsletter Program, as AGLThree leads it to new

heights as the new program manager. Without further ado, please enjoy this edition of the Mineplex Newsletter. (It is rather short as a result of the holidays, but please enjoy it nonetheless.)

- ssnip, Newsletter Program Manager



Christmas Event: Java & Bedrock

By BaconAnEggs & Nolawn

To celebrate the upcoming holiday season, Mineplex has released two festive lobbies for players to enjoy! This year, Mineplex spread some holiday cheer to both Java and Bedrock, which provided players with sweet holiday quests and cosmetics. This article gives a recap of the events that happened during the holiday festivities and some of the players' thoughts on this update.

Java

The Java network brought an entire Winter Holiday update to the community, along with holiday cheer and two festive game modes: Christmas Chaos II (CC II) and Snow Fight (SNF)! The Mineplex Build Team worked together and created another astonishing lobby, with holiday-themed miniature builds spread throughout the lobby and decorations covering the classic Tree Hub. In addition to this, 30

presents were hidden in peculiar spots and places across the hub. Players who found all of the presents were awarded the Feliz Navidad title and an Omega chest.

Event Games

With the return of CC II and SNF, many players came back to play these seasonal event games. CCII came back the same, giving newer and older players a chance to experience the gamemode once again during the holidays and feel some nostalgia. If you geared more towards a faster and a team-survival based gamemode, SNF would be the better pick for you!

To sum up this portion of the article, we had Snowing_, and avid SNF player, share his thoughts on the classic game of Snowfight.

Snowing_: “Snow Fight is practically the most innovative but most simple mini-game to ever exist on the Mineplex Network. It involves lots of quick decision based thinking and reacting to ensure that you hit your enemy targets, and also successfully defend your home base from opposing attacks. It’s simplicity really works well with its originality, as it is a Mineplex Classic that has worked well on the

Network for many years previous, proving to be a success with just one simple task: eliminate your opponents with the skill of aiming and clicking frozen balls of water at others. I believe Snow Fight is the best creation on the Mineplex Network and is definitely the highlight of the holiday season, enabling players to showcase their years long worth of training in the art of snowball throwing by utilizing team coordination and stealthy moves, correctly positioning frozen barricades, and leaping into the enemy castle. It requires the utmost awareness, but also lots of patience, as you have to correctly position your attack to make sure the snowballs land accordingly.”

Thanks to Snowing_ for taking time out of their day to express their passion and love for Snow Fight!

Advent Calendar

This year, Mineplex designed an entire Advent calendar filled with various challenges to complete for rewards leading up to Christmas, explained in full by talking to Santa’s Little Helper in the lobby. Each day, a new challenge was announced, leading a multitude of players across different areas of the network and creating tons of lobbies filled with players

trying to complete challenges in a hurry. Many of the advent challenges allowed underplayed games to start again, leaving many in the community ecstatic.



Players that completed the entire Advent calendar were rewarded at the end with:

- Ice Heart diamond sword name
- Advent Master title
- Snowglobe win effect
- Omega chest
- 7,000 experience, 7,000 gems, and 15,000 shards.

As an extra prize, bonus rewards were given to players that completed the Advent challenges daily, each within 24 hours of it being released. These rewards included

- Gingerbread Man diamond sword name
- Holiday Hero title
- Winter Wonderland particles
- Omega chest

- 15,000 experience, 15,000 gems, and 35,000 shards.

While pushing out an update is always an exciting occurrence, it means nothing if there is no way to get feedback from the community. Because of this, we asked two community members, Jaekub and Combativeness, to share some thoughts and opinions on the holiday event.

Jaekub: “The rewards were a great incentive for completing these missions. A few things would probably need to be tweaked next time around, one being the transparency with how the calendar functions, such as the existence of a bonus for completing all of the challenges the day they were released. There was also a problem with this being a busy time of year, with people having finals and travelling with family, so extending the availability of the bonus to a week would be better for people that are busy during the holiday season.”

Combativeness: “Some of the missions like master builder were tedious for people like me who do not really play Master Builders, causing a small struggle to get top 3. Snowball trouble wasn’t hard to complete itself, but

waiting for the game to come around was not fun, same with snowball one for the bridges because of how map specific it was.”

Please thank Jaekub and Combativeness as well for sharing what they thought of the Advent calendar, while giving some feedback that can hopefully be considered for holiday events in the future.

A similar consensus was seen with other members of the community too. In the Community Insights Discord, a special channel was created just for feedback about this holiday update. In here, many players reported different bugs such as advents not working and other quality of life suggestions for the future. Like Jaekub stated above, many players were confused about the bonus rewards that were given out to players if they completed the challenge the same day that it came out. Many were also frustrated with how the overall bonus rewards were handled since they were announced on December 23rd, which was very late into the month after the advent had started on the 1st.

Once it became time to finally collect

the overall rewards from the Advent calendar, some issues were easily noticed. Players reported things such as not receiving some of the final rewards or not receiving any at all even though they completed all of the challenges. Unfortunately, some members also lost shards instead of gaining them, leaving many upset with the end result of the Advent calendar. Luckily, these reports were directly forwarded to Quality Assurance to work closely with the Development Team on these issues. However, there is nothing for our players to stress over due to Advent Challenges not working properly. On December 29th, rosmeme (the Quality Assurance Manager) made an announcement to players regarding the stance of the issues, stating that “there is no need to worry about any missing progression for either the advent or title as it will be accounted for.”

In conclusion, the Advent Calendar motivated players to join the network daily, as well as providing a great challenge in exchange for plenty of rewards. While the update introduced even more festive cheer, it’s greatly agreed upon that there might need to be some tweaks and fixes if this were to be implemented next year like some

of the proposed changes suggested by some of the community. One of these would be making some slight additions to CCII by implementing new bosses or potentially creating kits for unique gameplay. Without a doubt, the Advent calendar and the Winter Holiday update was a hit, leaving many players excited for what might come in the next update.

Bedrock

This year's Holiday update also brought festive cheer to the Bedrock platform! This holiday season, players searched for presents scattered throughout the icy main lobby for a rare noble crate or purchased a new holiday sidekick! Eight adorable holiday pets came to the Bedrock Marketplace: Santa Claus, Giftbox, Gingerbread, Snowman, Elf, Rudolph the Reindeer, NutCracker and Mother Claus! To get some opinions on the holiday update, we reached out to two community members ScarletBlood37 and LT Tombstone 77! Here's what they had to say!

What do you think about the Holiday update?

ScarletBlood37: Whenever a new update comes out, the first thing I always do is find the thirty presents

and explore the lobby. I was quite disappointed that after finding all thirty, the reward was a noble crate, as I was expecting either an Imperial or a Royal crate. However, I love the new lobby and the fact that it's not too over-the-top and all the decorations look amazing. Overall, I really like the Holiday update, but something that I would change is rewarding players more when finding the presents.

LT Tombstone 77: I think the Holiday update added a nice touch to the lobby and the present hunt is always fun. I don't really see any flaws with this update, as it mostly just made Mineplex more holiday like for Christmas and such.

What is your favorite part of the Holiday update?

ScarletBlood37: My favorite part of the Holiday update would have to be finding presents in the lobby. Hunting for presents with my friends is always the most fun part of the update for me, and even though the reward is quite small (1 pitiful Noble crate), it's still awesome to explore the newly updated lobby and bond with friends at that time. I've always enjoyed searching around the lobby for whatever the new updates bring (like cauldrons for Halloween, etc), and I try to accomplish

the search without using video guides. It's always a pleasurable experience because it gives a challenge, but it's also entertainment at the same time.

LT Tombstone 77: I always like the present hunts. I think it's an easy way for beginners to have some fun and earn a crate. It gives people who don't have a lot of shards a chance to get a crate without buying any. It's a great opportunity for new players.

What do you feel could have been done differently?

ScarletBlood37: Something that could be done differently is adding mini-games and events. For example, on Java, Snow Fight, Christmas Chaos II, the Advent Calendar (and more) were added, while on Bedrock there's only a redesign to the lobby and the presents. Yes, the Devs have a lot on their hands with the chaos, bugs, and glitches caused by the 1.14 update, but adding holiday mini-games would be beneficial and provide something new for the season. Finally, I don't think I can stress this enough, but the reward for finding all thirty presents needs to be better. On Java it's an omega chest and a title, while on Bedrock it's a noble crate. So all in all, just adding some mini-games and increasing the reward for finding

the presents would make this a better experience.

LT Tombstone 77: I think they maybe could have added Holiday maps to a few (or all) of the games. Perhaps they could have maybe added a holiday game as well. I understand this is a bit difficult, as you would have to remove them after the holidays, but I it would really bring more players to Mineplex. They could also possibly add holiday challenges for games so that you could earn prizes and maybe gems or shards, like they did on Java.

Thank you so much to ScarletBlood37 and LT Tombstone 77 for such awesome interviews! We hope you enjoy the new lobby, cosmetics and festive cheer around on Mineplex's Bedrock server!

We sincerely hope that everyone enjoys the wonderful festive events on both servers this holiday season!

Photography Competition

By 510bike

Photography is a medium which allows one to express themselves through their creativity and visuals. With so many different styles and countless ways to edit photos, every photo is unique. Photography has been around since the 1800s and has developed as an art form over the years. Since then, it has given the world a chance to see perspectives, people, places, and ideas they might not have had the chance to see otherwise.

For this edition of the Mineplex Newsletter, we wanted to showcase community members' talent of photography through a friendly competition. The theme for this competition is "Outdoors/Nature." After reviewing the submissions, it was clear that all of the people who submitted photos have a large amount of talent. Our top 3 submissions are posted below. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry!



3rd Place

"Rivière-du-Loup" by Sven



2nd Place

“Colorado Roads” by fredericksburg



1st Place

“Emerald and Jade Waters” by Look_Dan

Ask Emily

By EmmaLie

Hello, and welcome to another Ask Emily. I am not sure why people wanted this to come back, but here we are! Again, take this advice with a grain of salt because I am definitely not qualified to be giving others advice that I often do not take myself.

How can I pick the perfect gifts for my family and friends during the holiday season?

Oops, I am a little late on this one. Still going to answer it though because I learned a really cool method for finding great gifts recently, and anyone can apply this to birthdays and other holidays. Pay attention to what your friends and family like and if they talk about how they want something or think something is cool, and jot that down for future reference. This way the gift is more than the item itself, it is also about you listening and valuing their interests.

For example, my little sister has been obsessed with painting her nails for

the past four months, so for Christmas, I purchased a nail art set so that she can take nail painting to the next level. Putting thought into gifts always makes them more special!

Hello Emily, how can I stay motivated to go for a specific Sr.Mod team when the applications are not likely to open up anytime soon and/or invites to the team are very rare?

The thing about motivation is that it is different for everyone. What might work for me may not work for you, which is why giving tips on how to stay motivated is pretty difficult. I waited 6 months for Community Management applications to open, but I stayed motivated because this community has been a passion of mine since 2013. I could not give that up just because I had to wait a while for it, because this is what I truly wanted here at Mineplex. So ask yourself, what do you truly want at Mineplex? If the answer is this Sr.Mod team, do more with their sub-teams

and interact with them. If the answer is something else, focus on that.

There are no wrong choices here. Whether you are a trainee, mod or Sr.Mod, we are all apart of something special and can make a difference together.

you were able to take something away from all of this and maybe even apply it to your life as well. Have a winterful January, Mineplexians!

-EmmaLie

I never stick with my New Years' resolutions, how do I keep up with them?

It really depends on how difficult your resolution is, but this tip applies to a lot of them. Ask yourself, what is your end goal? Once you have the answer, start setting smaller goals every day, these smaller goals will feel easier to reach but will keep your motivation going by completing them.

For example, let us say your end goal is to be better at drawing by the end of the year. Drawing takes a lot of practice so on the first day, draw something that is small and easy to do. Keep increasing the size and difficulty every day! Not only is it great practice, but you will feel fulfilled once your goal has been completed!

Thank you for not skipping over my advice column, it means a lot! I hope

December Staff Stats

By Jxcb

We want to give a tremendous thank you to all of the staff members who have unfortunately resigned this past month for all of the hard work that they have done for the network. We also would like to congratulate all of the people who have received a promotion or have reached an important milestone in their staff career.

Resignations

December 5th: PieOrPi
December 6th: FuzzyJunior
December 7th: 24OO
December 8th: Crazyy_Tim, z609
December 10th: wixco (Social Media)
December 20th: millenium200
December 23rd: Flamingknight08
December 26th: DeMotD, Eclipciz, Tours
December 28th: AaronPlxyzTW
December 31st: Jarvis (Forum Ninja Admin)

Java Trainee

December 14th: Hiccuping, Im_Ken

Bedrock Trainee

December 14th: AaronPlxyzTW

Java Mod

December 7th: Bqth
December 15h: Thenorn

Senior Mod

December 1st: AceSJus, jxcb, ShqdyMC (Forum Ninja)
December 8th: 510bikes, Goudge, TeaSpiller, Tortelett, xOeuf (Social Media)

Admin

December 8th: EmmaLie (Social Media)
December 31st: Wanderer_ (Forum Ninja)

Leader

December 8th: DeanTM (Head of Staff)

1st Year Milestones

December 1st: z609
December 8th: __Narwhal
December 15th: Lonkachu

Caption the Image

By Marzie

It is a new year, a new decade, and now a new Caption the Image! We sincerely hope you have had a great holiday and are looking forward to the new year. As fireworks go off around the world and lanterns are lit and released into the sky, we say goodbye to the past and hello to the future with new wishes, hopes, friends and family by our side. With the new year beginning, let us see what new image we have for you to caption!

Simply take a peek at the image provided and submit a caption that you think best fits the scenario via the form below to have a chance to be featured in next month's Newsletter!



Whenever you are ready, submit your wonderful caption [here!](#)

Here are some of the best captions that were submitted by three participants and were handpicked from our previous article of Caption the Image, along with the picture from the last contest provided below.



frederickburg: "Santa: It's Christmas Eve! Time to get ready to deliver presents! Let's fetch my reindeer!
Cows:
Santa: WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?!"

LifesaverGummies: "All the cows wanted for Christmas was fresh grass... instead they got this"

FacuOta: "when everyone notices that you are eating candy"

Impact Poetry

By AGLThree

After a short break, Impact Poetry is back again for 2020, containing lovely pieces written by fellow readers and a brand new contest for those feeling inspired! As the break since the last Impact Poetry article may have left readers feeling hazy on the rules, here is a brief reminder:

Your original written content does not have to be relevant to Mineplex but must follow the network's rules. Your poem can be done in any style, as long as it fits the line constraints.

For January, your prompt is new beginnings/realizations and your poetry style is a haiku. A haiku is a Japanese poem consisting of three lines of five, seven, and five syllables and does not have to rhyme. Submit your creative haikus [here](#).

Prizes:

1st Place - 3 Mythicals

2nd Place - 1 Mythical & 1 Ancient

Those who wrote poetry last time this article ran, don't fear! Your work has not been forgotten! Here are two of our favorite poems each written by an inspired community member:

1st Place

"Why can't I see?
He looks straight into the mirror
And cannot find his face.

Why can't I taste?
He prepares a well-seasoned meal
And its flavor is bland.

Why can't I feel?
His relative has passed
And he has no sorrow.

He thinks he does not belong
anywhere.
If only I could show him
That he does belong to me."

Oj0e

2nd Place

“How does one truly belong?
Do they have to be rich?
Have many friends?
Live in a big house?
Cool parents?
The most followers on Instagram?
One will never know
As belonging is up to you
If you want to belong, you shall
if you don't, you won't.
One thing we all belong to
is the human race”

Animalll

Please be sure to compliment these talented community members on their work. We look forward to reading your delightfully inspired haikus next month!

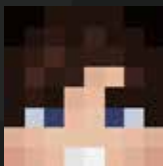
Meet the Team



ssnip: Hello! I'm ssnip, and I am a Community Manager here at Mineplex, and I lead the Newsletter Program. I also work with the members of the Ideas Team and host weekly events.



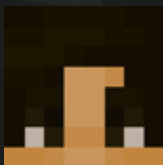
Tortelett: hi I didn't make the pdf.



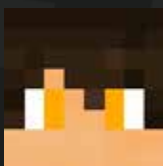
IntoRainbows: hi I like art :)



flawsome: I'm a writer for this thing called the Mineplex Newsletter, don't know if you've heard of it but I heard it's pretty cool. I also love dogs and food... and that's about it. Hope you liked this month's issue! :)



Nolawn: Hello gamers! I'm Nolawn and I'm a writer for the Newsletter. I'm currently a Community Manager here on Mineplex. You'll most likely see me playing some Nano Games on the network or discussing ideas on the forums. Most importantly, I love food and sleep.



Spoiler: Hi! I'm Spoiler, an 18 year old writer and editor for Mineplex's newsletter program. As I now officially graduated high school, I am currently a freshman at Stony Brook University. However, I'm not exactly sure what I'll be pursuing.. Feel free to check the "information" section of my profile to learn more about me!

Meet the Team



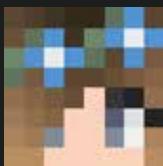
AGLThree: Hola! I'm AGLThree and I am a writer and editor for the Newsletter! I'm currently a Sr. Mod on Recruitment and am on two subteams, including Newsletter. Outside of Mineplex, I enjoy chilling with my dog and my family, as well as watching Netflix, reading, writing, and going on walks or runs. If you see me around on the network, feel free to say hi!



Arjun: Yo! I'm Arjun and I'm a Sr. Mod here on Mineplex under Recruitment. I spend most of my time playing games on the server and dedicating my efforts to my subteams. I'm a pretty competitive player who's always down to play some games, so if you ever see me around and wanna play some PvP games let me know!



DeMotD: Hi there! My name is DeMotD and I'm currently a Mineplex Mod! I am a part of the Newsletter team as an editor and writer. You can usually find me moderating lobbies or grinding Cake Wars! In my free time, I like to play a lot of Destiny and Beat Saber. Feel free to say hi to me if you ever find me in game!



Sophie_OGrady: I'm an editor for the newsletter, a Game Insights member and an ex-staff member. You can find me around the forums and chatting on the discord!



BaconAnEggs: Hey, what's up! I'm BaconAnEggs an editor and writer for the Newsletter Program! When on Mineplex, you can find me playing Skywars or Mixed Arcade! Outside of Mineplex I love Mario Kart and Harry Potter! #TeamHufflepuff!

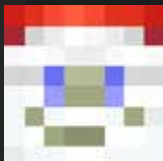
Meet the Team



jxcb: Hello hello! I'm jxcb, and I am currently a Forum Ninja on Mineplex. I help write and edit articles for the newsletter each month. I enjoy playing games like Cake Wars and Skywars, so you'll most likely see me playing those two when I'm online. If I'm ever on, say hi and let's strike up a chat.



Marzie: It's a me, Marzie! I am an Ex-FN and a current Event Squad member that runs Staff Events and does Website QA things for most of my time. On the side I also do Forum Mod, Reports Patrol Assistance, Ideas Team, and I also Co-Lead CMP + Mentor there. Adding to this semi-giant list, I am now a Writer & Editor for NL! Learn my entire history with Mineplex and more about me on my profile in the information tab.



TooMuchXMas4You: Hiya! I am a writer for this thing called the Mineplex Newsletter, along with my Moderator position on Mineplex and the other sub teams I work with! My favorite games on the network are Cake Wars and Sky Wars. If you see me around in-game, don't be afraid to say hello!



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 and RPA member, as well as an ex FM. Outside of Mineplex, I'm into martial arts, photography, and mock trial! Feel free to say hello if you ever see me around!



Dutty: Helloo, I'm Dutty and I'm the Build Team Admin on Mineplex. If I'm not on the server, I'm probably either at a concert or building somewhere. I pretty much do a bit of everything on Mineplex. On Saturdays, catch me hosting testing for the world's best team, scientifically proven.