



MINEPLEX NEWSLETTER

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

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HOLIDAY RECAP!

BY: SM_AWESOME

With the beginning of January comes the end of one of the most exciting times on Mineplex – winter holiday season! Here at Mineplex, we celebrated the holidays this year in several exciting ways:

Holiday Lobby

The Mineplex Build Team worked hard to bring us very festive hubs on both the Java and Bedrock servers! The lobbies were layered with snow and colorful lights hung overhead.

Gingerbread Chests

This year's Gingerbread treasures added 17 exclusive holiday cosmetics to the collection of eight from last year. You could purchase Gingerbread Chests with shards in-game or online at mineplex.com/shop.

Christmas Chaos II

Our favorite holiday game was updated this year with a new map, new challenges, and an even scarier Pumpkin King! If you won this game, you received a Gingerbread Chest, a fancy 'Santa's Helper' title, and your very own Pumpkin Shield particle effect!

Speaking of the Pumpkin King, after some investigation, the Quality Assurance team has determined that the his GWEN ban is correct. Looks like he won't be bothering us for a while!

But wait, there's more! We also released the mini-games Snow Fight on Java and Merry Mayhem on Bedrock, there was a scavenger hunt in the Bedrock lobbies, the Karaoke Team hosted a special Christmas event, and there was a holiday skin contest on our Twitter! <https://twitter.com/Mineplex>

We hope you enjoyed all the winter fun as much as we did. I wonder what Mineplex has planned next...
Happy 2018!

THE IDEAS PROJECT!

BY: SSNIP

With the promotion of our newest Community Manager, Catherine, also known as Nuclear_Poptart, we wanted to take this opportunity to reintroduce the community to the Ideas Project! As the name suggests, this project operates with a simple goal in mind—gathering community ideas and feedback and then turning them into a reality. Members of the team sift through the forums, documents, and other outlets for ideas to discuss. After discussing an idea, it can be forwarded to the Leadership Team.

Catherine is a former Customer Support agent for Mineplex. She was recently brought onto the Community Management team to help lead Community Relations which includes the Ideas Project. She wants to forge a mutual bond between staff and players that is based on openness, action, and trust. Catherine pushes to support transparency with the community, to take action based on community input, and to form a trusting relationship with the community. She works alongside production staff and players to make sure that all ideas and feedback are brought to the table for discussion.

Moving forward, Community Management will be working hard to better incorporate community ideas and feedback. As Catherine put it, “You can expect some pleasant surprises in the new year! 2018 will be full of exciting changes, and CoM will be stepping up in a very cool way to make sure that your voice is heard & listened to, through all of that!” She couldn’t go into specifics yet, but I’m sure we’re all excited to see where Community Management is headed.

KINGCRAZY & MEPMAN9 INTERVIEW

BY: GLITCCH

Last month, the new leads of both Quality Assurance and Clans Management, KingCrazy_ and mepman9 respectively, were announced to the public as the replacement leads of Relyh after his departure from our staff team. We sat down and talked to them about their new roles and the plans they're bringing to the table.

Mind introducing yourself for the people who may not know who you are?

KingCrazy_: Hello, my name is KingCrazy_ / Joe and I am the lead of the Quality Assurance team. I make sure that everything on the team is running smoothly and trying to get the team to be as efficient as it can. I work closely with Devs, Leadership, and Owners to make sure that everything is going the way it's supposed to. Outside of Mineplex, I enjoy playing Overwatch with friends and I love it even more when I can get people to carry me.

mepman9: Hey everyone! I'm mepman9, and I lead the Clans Management team. I enjoy good doggos and I play lots of games within and outside of Mineplex and Minecraft as a whole. I really enjoy the work that I do here on the staff team, and I hope to enhance the Clans experience for everyone out there.

What is one common misconception about the work of your team that people should understand?

KingCrazy_: One of the biggest misconception is that people on QA know how to code and that they can fix themselves. I am sad to tell you that most QA don't know how to code so they can't instantly fix the issue the moment they hear about it.

mepman9: We can't be everywhere at once. The team has shrunk down to -at the time of writing this- five CMs and two CMAs. Having seven people manage more than ten servers obviously presents a challenge to us, so we can't be covering every server at all times like we and the players would both love. That being said, I look forward to improving our moderation in the future so that we can cover more ground more efficiently.

KINGCRAZY & MEPMAN9 INTERVIEW

BY: GLITCCH

How has the transition into a larger leadership role been so far? Have you hit any big snags?

KingCrazy_: Although I am in a larger leadership role the transition hasn't been too bad. When I was a QA Manager a large part of my work is the same but just little bit more intense. One of the biggest problems that I faced during the transition was trying to implement new ways to make the team better and trying to fix some of the issues on the team. Doing this along with trying to make sure that all of the testings are getting done was the biggest "snag" in the beginning as it was also during my testing week.

mepman9: The transition was a bit intimidating at first, moving into a role where I'm responsible for the team as a whole. That being said, I feel like I've adjusted well since then and I'm much more comfortable in the role now. I haven't had any specifically trying times yet, though I'm sure they'll come around eventually. When they do, I'm confident that I'll be able to push through them to continue doing quality work.

Since taking your role, have you started developing plans in order to grow your respective teams and the areas of the server they work on?

KingCrazy_: I have been working on ways of making the team better since I have taken this role. I have been working on improving the things internally within the team and getting rid of things that weren't really used or serve as much as a purpose. One of the main goals/things that I am working on is trying to improve the QA interaction on the Forums by having QA respond to threads that contain new ideas, improvements, and their feedback.

mepman9: I definitely do have plans to grow CM and CMA as they're both very small teams at the moment. More people on the teams means more sharing of ideas, as well as better moderation of the Clans servers, leading to a better overall experience for the players. In terms of the areas where we work, the next Clans update should put us in a place where we have a much more reasonable job in terms of moderation, which means we can focus much more on the content of the game.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!

BY: KEVITHEBEAR

Since the new year is approaching, that means it's the time to make resolutions! I asked a number of individuals from our community what goals they will be setting and what they will be doing on New Year's Day.

Elizuh: "Well firstly, every year for New Year's Eve, my family and I come together and we have a huge party with the neighbors along with family and friends of course. Then we countdown for the New York New Year and then we have a countdown for our New Year. When the clock strikes 12 for both times, we all take a glass of apple cider and drink together. For resolutions, I always write them down on paper and keep it pinned to my wall to look over during the new year. For those resolutions, I work towards them and when I feel I have accomplished a resolution, I cross it off. Some I have right now is to start a study group for school, take time off electronics and go outdoors more, start volunteering again at animal shelters, etc.

For the New Year's Day, my family and I are taking a trip up to Utah to see the snow since where I live it doesn't snow. We are going to go skiing and snowboarding which I know will be lots of fun! Overall, I know 2018 will be off to a great start!"

Enunciate_: "The types of resolutions I have for New Year's are pretty cheesy but it's to be an even better person than I am now. As for MP, my goals are to return to the TT as a Chinese translator, become GI and Trainee, and play more Mineplex games since they're great. I'm going out with family and plan to watch the New Year's celebration which is what I do every year!"

Hammie: "I don't set resolutions, but instead, I just try to set goals year round. One thing that I want to work on as I go into the new year is making sure that all of my belongings have meaning to me. On New Years Day, I am gonna hang out with some friends, and do whatever else sounds fun because I am on break!"

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!

BY: KEVITHEBEAR

SheSoCookie: “My New Year’s resolutions are things like: saving money (or spending less), going out with friends more & to procrastinate less. On New Year’s, I am just gonna spend time with family, friends and loved ones; have a nice meal and watch the countdown!”

unperfectly: “Some New Year’s resolutions I have are to;

- Be more confident in taking pictures of myself
- Be more confident when talking to new people, or just people in general
- Eat more healthily
- Try and improve on art by practicing
- Learn new skill/hobby and take up

On New Year’s Day, I plan to stay inside with my family and basically just celebrate with the ones I love with food, sugar, and drinks. I’ll also be making some highlights of 2017 with them, as well as calling Britney and playing some games together.”

I wish everyone a new year full of opportunities and love!



Image by iex12

PROMOTIONS/RESIGNATIONS

BY:EMMAGRILL

This month, we want to give a shout out to promoted and returning staff members as well as our thanks to those who have decided to resign.

Promotions:

Java Trainee

December 1st - ImADumbo, Invaderr,
Kiaboneea, Myys, Spacegod008,
JJCunningCreeper, z33z
December 15th - 2400, merrychristmass,
Misties, xAlonzo

Bedrock Trainee

December 1st - GoldenJunior242,
MsPandaSocks

Java Mod

December 9th - FuzzyJunior, xUmbreon
December 16th - xSlowWifi

Bedrock Mod

December 16th - DeMotD

Resignations:

Java

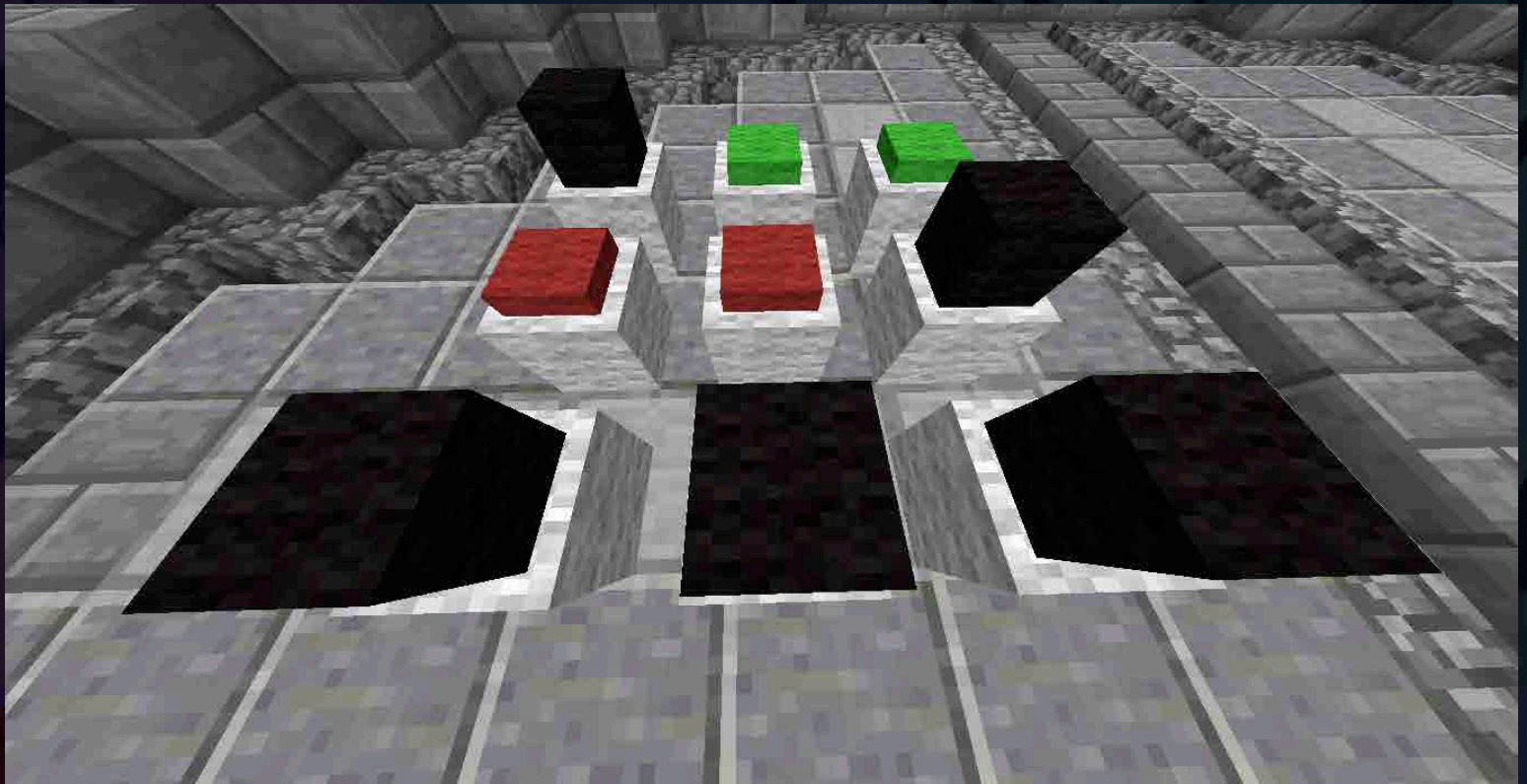
December 2nd - SuperiorPhoenix
December 3rd - xEthanZ
December 4th - Wattywatty14
December 6th - iPBJSammich
December 17th - GangstaCat
December 19th - _Ichor
December 19th - Biitcoin
December 22nd - Otisdiver
December 23rd - Soccerstar0015
December 23rd - ErgLovesCheese
December 23rd - merrychristmass

CAPTION THE IMAGE!

BY: LOOFII

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 the given month are showcased in the next edition of the newsletter along with the image and form for that month.

Here's January's image!



Do you think you can meet the challenge? Give it a shot here:
<https://goo.gl/forms/KRoG36jwx183G2FG3>

The winners of December's Caption the Image are:
Crazyy_Tim - "Hey Santa, might be a bit late to tell you this, but we're not reindeers"

TheDaddiestDaddy - "New sleigh who dis"



GUESS THE LOCATION!

BY: SUSPICIOUS

It's a brand new year, and what better way to kick it off than with a good old game of Guess the Location! The holidays may be wrapping up, but here at Mineplex, the festivities aren't quite over yet! The extravagant winter wonderland remain in every lobby, and although the cheery month of December has drawn to a close, plenty of merriness is left in the air. Why not keep the vibe going and play special game of Guess the Location this month...winter themed! Never played or need a brief reminder? Here's a quick summary of how it works: below is a zoomed-in screenshot taken somewhere in the main lobby. Your job is to make your best guess at where it was taken and provide a brief but detailed description of the location in the submission form linked below. Three random players who answer correctly will be recognized in the next Newsletter and receive two Mythical Chests each. Sounds simple enough, right? But don't forget the twist – this month's screenshot was taken in the winter lobby. Best of luck!



Submit your guesses here: <https://goo.gl/forms/dMvXoulK6AxftkZl1>

Congratulations to last month's winners:

Lukafin

Smaland47

Troll1422

You will each receive one Gingerbread Chest as your reward!

CLANS - 19

Writers: snowykitty & loofii

Artist: cy_

WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY ARE **YOU** NEAR OUR TERRITORY?

W-WE WERE JUST TRYING TO FIND A SAFE PLACE TO STAY!

PLACE TO *STAY*?

WAIT, JASPER - AREN'T THEY FROM **SETH'S CLAN**?

WHAT?

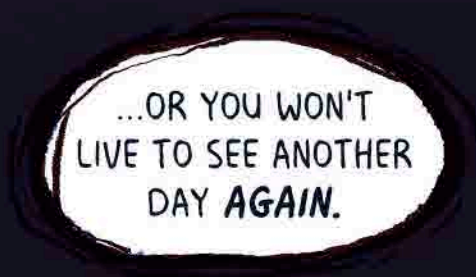
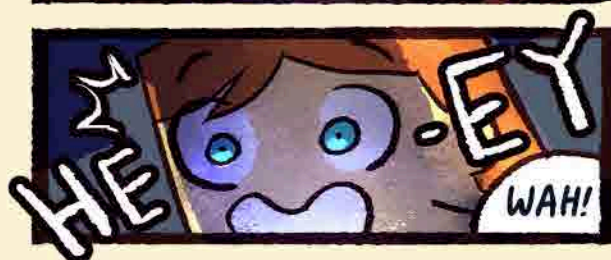
AUDREY, SMOKE ARROWS!

FWIP
WOAH HEY-EEK!

I CAN'T SEE!

OOF! HEY, WATCH IT!

SHHH



NEWSLETTER STAFF BIOS



Tortelett: Hi! I am a moderator on the Newsletter and Media Team! I am in charge of designing and assembling all the written articles and images into this newsletter and making everything look pretty. This issue marks my two year anniversary on the team!



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



EmmaGrill: Ello! My name is Emma, and I'm a 15 year old book addict. I'm currently an editor and writer on the Newsletter team at Mineplex along with being a Senior Mod on ModCoord. In my spare time I enjoy doing competitive archery and playing the flute. If you see me around feel free to say hello!



Loofii: Hey y'all, I'm Loofii! I'm a Mineplex Mod. My favorite game is Speed Builders, with Team Skywars as a close second. I like dancing, writing, and I'm a huge fan of Troye Sivan and Hayley Kiyoko. If you see me ingame, be sure to say hi!



SnowyKitty: Hey there! I'm SnowyKitty and most call me Snowy. I am a Java Moderator here on Mineplex and the manager of the Newsletter Team. I love to read and write fiction stories, from realistic to sci-fi! My favorite game is Draw My Thing, though I'll really play anything even though I'm not the best at PvP. If you see me somewhere, don't be afraid to shoot me a hello!



Glitch: Howdy! I'm glitch, but most people call me Nat. I'm currently a Forum Ninja here at Mineplex, but do much more than that on a daily basis. I write articles for the Newsletter & make graphics featured in the articles, mainly renders. I'm typically always online on Enjin, don't be afraid to come and say hi!



_Leif: Hello there! I'm _Leif, and I'm a moderator on Mineplex. NL is presently my only sub-team. I love to read and write, and hope to become a lawyer later on in life!

NEWSLETTER STAFF BIOS



kevithebear: Well hello there! My name is Kevin, and I'm a Moderator on the Java platform of Mineplex. I'm a bubbly person who absolutely loves cliché romantics; I live for them. I have a huge passion for writing, and I find inspiration through my emotions and experiences. The theater calls my name, so if you're into musicals, I'm sure we'll get along!



ssnip: Yo! I'm ssnip, and I'm a moderator at Mineplex! I host events, moderate the forums, process reports, and write for the newsletter! If you ever see me in-game (or at an event wink) don't be afraid to say hi!



sm_awesome: Heya! I'm sm_awesome, and I'm a moderator here on Mineplex. In addition to being a writer and editor for the newsletter, I'm also a Forum Moderator. If you see me around, don't be afraid to say hi – I (usually) don't bite!

