

# MINIPELEX

## NEWSLETTER



**Issue 76**  
**January 2022**

Christmas Update Recap, Guess the Staff,  
Caption the Image, and more.

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Have any feedback? We'd love to hear it. Share with us on our [feedback form](#)!

# From the Editor

Happy New Year! Another full-fledged year for Mineplex has gone by, and with that, we're back to January and the winter season. I hope that through the holiday season, you are all able to take a step back from the more time-consuming, stressful activities you involve yourselves in and spend time on things that you really enjoy doing—whether that be hanging out with family, watching shows, or of course, playing on Mineplex! We had several updates to the network this month which will be showcased in this month's issue, so we hope you enjoyed the nostalgic feeling of the holiday hub and some of the games that return during this time of the year.

As I mentioned last month, this past year was extremely difficult for many, if not all of us, so I would like to once again praise everyone for making it through the year despite it being one of the most stressful, due to the pandemic. Regardless of how you keep yourself safe during these times, I wish all of you great health!

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for spending your time reading the Newsletter, commenting on it, and pitching forth your ideas. This year, I hope to push out specific articles that avoid generic topics, and, thus far, I've seen some interesting suggestions—keep them coming! I strongly urge you all to submit the feedback form and make suggestions through our Suggestions Box when you have the chance.

If you have any specific inquiries in which you would like to speak with me privately about the Newsletter, the team, an article, or any other concern, you're more than welcome to and can do so through messaging me on the forums. Otherwise, as mentioned, you can always submit comments or feedback through our [official form](#) or on the thread. I hope you enjoy this month's edition of the Mineplex Newsletter!

Here's to 2022!

- Arjun, Newsletter Program Manager

# Christmas Update Recap

By [joshuart\\_](#)

As 2021 comes to a wrap, the Mineplex community enjoyed the sights and sounds of a magical Christmas season! Considered to be many peoples' favorite update of the year, this holiday season brought lots of cheer. From a brand new advent calendar, a reimagined winter hub, and even an overhaul to our headliner holiday game, Christmas Chaos, players all across Mineplex indulged in the festive fun!

On December 1st, players were greeted with a warm Christmas village-inspired Winter hub. Standing tall in the center is a magical clock tower, displaying the time for all to see. In this hub also stands the famous Mineplex Advent calendar where many players began their official holiday adventure. Furthermore, we saw the return of classic games such as Castle Siege and Snow Fight!

Roughly halfway into the month, the beloved holiday game, Christmas Chaos, made its triumphant return. This year's version featured new mini-bosses, new locations for power ups, and even brand new mazes and parkours!

To get more insight on the Christmas update this year, I decided to sit down with active community member OhCrazy to get a better insight about the update from the community's perspective.

**What was your favorite part about Christmas Chaos this year?**

**OhCrazy:** "My favorite part this year was changing the mob waves into two mini bosses. The waves from the previous years felt long and boring. I always enjoy fighting bosses in all types of games. Bringing back the golem tower into Christmas Chaos brings back memories from 2013 while the Jack Skeleton mini boss brings something fresh into the table with the new attack with the particle waves where you can dodge by jumping over the particles. I totally didn't squeal when I was getting shoved off a cliff by a group of snowmen."

What are your thoughts on the changes that occurred to CC this year? Was there anything that stood out to you while playing?

**OhCrazy:** "I really think the changes made this year made the game feel a lot more engaging. The renewed snake parkour and maze made them feel fresh. The new secret locations and the mini boss changes definitely stood out to me. This year's secret locations are a lot more well thought out with half of them requiring parkour to reach them. There are more penguins! I don't know how there are penguins in the north pole. Someone probably imported penguins into the north pole. The logic doesn't really matter because I love it. There are penguins chilling near cliffs, a family of penguins in the spike hole, one is lost in the maze, and one taunts you in the old secret location."

One of the spotlight festivities that occurs every holiday is our grand Christmas hub, made by our very own Build Team. This year's winter hub is filled with tons of snow, candy, presents, and more! Players have even discovered some Easter Eggs from their favorite holiday movies. Characters such as The Grinch, Olaf, Elsa, and even Mr. Tumnus are all featured in the lobby.

As players made their way around the hub, they even discovered our very own Present Hunt! We hid 30 presents around the hub this year and after completing it, players were gifted with an exclusive Hub title, an omega chest, and more!

I decided to talk with Ian923, a Build Team member, to get some insight as to how he thought the hub turned out this year.

What is your favorite part of the Christmas Hub this year?

**Ian923:** "My favorite part of the Christmas hub is definitely the spawn area — more specifically the clocktower and game portal houses, which were loosely based on those light-up ceramic models you often see in stores around Christmas time. Originally we considered a few ideas for the spawn structure, the runner-up being a snow globe, which we ultimately decided against due to it just not working for the type of spawn area we wanted. It was difficult getting rid of the large Christmas tree that typically sits over spawn, but the clocktower gave us a lot more freedom to experiment and I especially like the houses around it which compliment it really well."



What did you help work on for the hub this holiday season?

**Ian923:** "I built most of the area around the spawn, including the clocktower, portal houses, and gladiator arena. I also did much of the lava parkour island, including the houses there which I had actually made a while ago for a MineKart map that was never finished. My other responsibilities included pasting some old assets from former Christmas hubs, like the Olaf organic and the Christmas tree near spawn."

What did you find most challenging while decorating the hub?

**Ian923:** "The most difficult part for me was making the houses above and around the game portals. I had a bit of a hard time since I wanted them to all look different enough but also compliment one another as a singular structure. I ended up using a similar block palette for all three sections while altering some roof shapes and colors. I think this allowed the houses to look distinct but also coordinated at the same time."

Because this is the year that keeps on giving, I have prepared a behind-the-scenes look at our process of the Holiday Hub this year. The Build Team is delighted to bring the Mineplex community beautiful seasonal overhauls to the server every year and with that being said, here are some screenshots of the process!

In the very beginning stages, the hub is all clear of old decor and the Build Team starts brainstorming what we could potentially have in the hub. This year, the process began with this very... adorable.. snowman.



But alas! The centerpiece of this year's hub was created first and we settled on a clock tower. It's fully decorated with garland, snow, ice, and more! This also serves as the centerpiece of our Christmas town theme we were going for this holiday season.



Lights are being added, trees are being planted, and houses are being built. We wanted to come up with something interesting and unique when it came to our portals this year. In previous seasonal lobbies, the portals have ended up being presents and we wanted that to change.



The lobby is now set to night time! We placed Olaf originally there but due to the addition of the Advent Calendar in the hub, the Menorah took his place and the funny little snowman now resides with his lifelong best friend, Elsa. In the back are houses which will be used to decorate the Lava Parkour island, giving it a ski resort feel.



Big Larry has bought himself a snow globe for this Christmas season! Additionally, Mount Crumpit, home of the infamous Grinch, has been made. Railroad tracks coming from the mountain have been constructed so the Polar Express could easily pass on through.





And finally, the Holiday hub is finally complete! With snow sprinkling through the sky and lights shining bright for all to see, this hub brings the Mineplex community together to spread holiday cheer.

As the season wraps up, we hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. From finishing every advent challenge to playing favorite Mineplex games such as Castle Siege and Snow Fight, and even defeating Evil Carl in Christmas Chaos, the holiday season here at Mineplex is always one to remember. If you guys have any suggestions as to how they can be improved for next winter, please let us know!

From everyone here at Mineplex: Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!



# Guess the Staff Member

By EmmaLie

Do you think you know the staff team well? If so, take on the challenge of guessing this months' staff member! Don't worry if this is your first time participating in our contest; it's easy. Every month, we choose a staff member for you to guess. We provide a description and a few hints to help you with the guessing process and, once you have your answer, all you have to do is submit the form below. As always, you can find a list of our staff members at [mineplex.com/staff](https://mineplex.com/staff), so go ahead, take a crack at it!

Description of the Staff Member: A lot of my teams are community-oriented and I've been on the staff team for over 2 years! Outside of Mineplex & IRL duties, you'll probably find me playing Dead By Daylight with friends or obsessing over the music industry.

## Hint #1

"I'm the biggest Nicki Minaj fan on the staff team"

## Hint #2

"Castle Siege is my favorite game on Mineplex."

Does this staff member sound familiar to you?

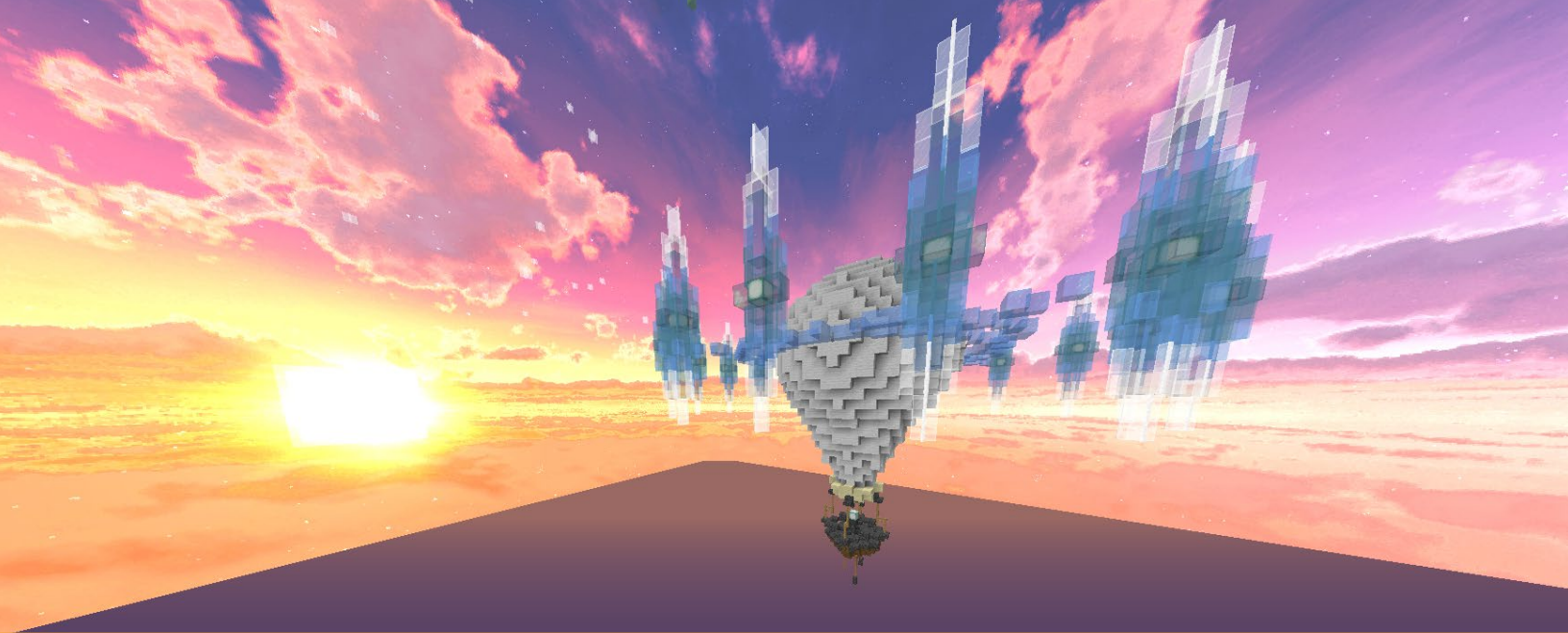
Take your guess here: <https://bit.ly/32clp1L>

Last month's staff member was GuardianInASuit! A lot of you guessed correctly which means we had to take all of those names and throw them on the wheel to decide our winners! Congratulations to the following on winning this month!

MachoPiggies

CookieBilly

DaPBillk



# Caption the Image

By Looof

Happy New Year! I thought that life would've returned to normal by 2022, but unfortunately, that isn't the case. With that being said, we are extremely excited to see what this new year has in store for all of us. I hope everyone is staying safe and has started to work towards their New Year's Resolutions.

## Story Time

You are afraid of heights but decided that 2022 was the year you would get over this fear. As the clock strikes midnight on January 1, 2022, you write down in your notebook that taking a ride in a hot air balloon would be your New Year's Resolution, and, hopefully, that experience would help you get over your fear of heights. Later that day,

you find a professional hot air balloon tour guide in Lobby-1. He says he will take you for only a few shards so you agree. The following morning, you meet him in Lobby-1 again and begin the tour. As you go higher and higher up in the air, you begin to see the sunrise. The breathtaking view puts you in a trance. Unfortunately, that trance is broken when the fire that keeps the hot air balloon extinguishes. You frantically look towards the tour guide and he shrugs. You look up at the balloon and see that icicles have attached to it, and you're beginning to slowly move back towards the ground.

Caption what's happening in this month's image here:

<https://forms.gle/tmpReCdwji2syDMd8>



Last month Frosty the Snowman's epic journey back to the North Pole ended up turning into an experience where Santa gave him the ability to never melt! This allowed Frosty to celebrate all holidays, not only Christmas.

Here is our favorite response from last month!

**Bob16077777:** "Frosty hanging out with his two symmetrical friends."



# December Staff Statistics

By Arjun

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

December 5: ShadowWolfZoe (Cross-Platform)  
December 12: ModCloudy (Cross-Platform)

## Bedrock Trainee

November 28: Kiptastical, maiukai  
(Cross-Platform)

## Java Moderator

December 5: FestiveDolphin, Kindnessaj

## Bedrock Moderator

December 5: cloudyanika  
December 12: XLqnax, XGillzz

## Resignations

December 9: punkband  
December 14: Stormiiee  
December 25: Block2Block (Event Squad)

## 3 Year Milestones

December 1, 2018: wattywatty14  
December 15, 2018: Lonkachu

# Meet the Team

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**Arjun:** Hey there! I'm the Newsletter Lead. I'm also a Sr. Recruiter/Manager on the Recruitment team, a Rules Committee member, and I work on a couple of other sub-teams. Hope you enjoyed this month's issue of the Newsletter!



**Tortelett:** Six years of making the pdf!



**Sophie\_OGrady:** Hi, I edit the newsletter.



**Marzie:** For your safety, this product has been carefully removed from shelves and will be carefully disposed of.

# Meet the Team

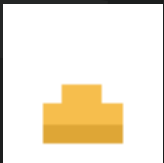
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**EmmaLie:** Hiya! I'm Emily and I'm that one weirdo who loves lollipops and doing stuff for the community. I'm currently the admin of Community Management & the Event Squad, so you'll see me a lot in-game, especially in EVENT-1. Outside of Mineplex,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



**neotheater:** <— recruiter, newsletter writer, reports patrol person and ghirahim's number #1 stan.



**chhase:** goose admin



**aiirr:** Hey guys! My name is Alyssa, though most people call me aiirr! I am an editor for the Newsletter team! On Mineplex, you can see me playing either Champions Domination or Turf Wars. If I am not on Minecraft, you'll most likely find me playing Overwatch or doing school work for my last year of college!

# Meet the Team

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**ddglfer:** Hey y'all, I am ddgolfer and I am a writer for the Newsletter as well as a Scout on the Translations Team! I am an ex-Forum Manager and was on the staff team for eleven months before my departure in January of 2021. Now I spend my time wondering why I pay for so many streaming services but never have time to watch anything on them.



**Looof:** yea yea yea yea yea we paid



**joshuart\_:** Your friendly neighborhood Build Lead & Sr.Mod