

MINEPLEX

NEWSLETTER



Issue 53
February 2020

Mineplex Rewind 2019, Valentine's
Day Community Appreciation, and more.

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From the Editor

Over the past few months, there has been a series of changes occurring on the Newsletter, beginning with design and culminating with a transfer of leadership from the lovely ssnip to myself. Though ssnip was an excellent lead and a lovely person who will be dearly missed, I am also extremely excited to become the next Newsletter lead and to continue producing content for the community each month.

Throughout my time on the team, I have noticed that a common complaint of the community is that the Newsletter is not always pushed on the first day of the month and sometimes is much later than that. While I personally know and appreciate that the members of this team work hard each month to write their articles, to edit others', and to design the Newsletter, I also understand that the community expects commitment and consistency. To me, this promise to produce an interesting and engaging Newsletter on time each month is one that we plan on taking seriously. I cannot promise perfection by any means, and I hope that you all will be understanding as I become more familiar with this role and its responsibilities. However, I will promise

to all of you that we will collectively try our best each month to fulfill that commitment for you all.

As always, your feedback is extremely important to us in order to produce a Newsletter that the community is interested in. If you have anything you would like to say, recommend, or criticize about the Newsletter, please use the anonymous feedback form linked on the page above and on the thread. If you would like to speak with me directly, feel free to reach out!

I look forward to working closely with the team as the new lead and I hope you enjoy this edition!

- AGLThree, Newsletter Program Manager

Mineplex Rewind 2019

By AGLThree

Though it has already been a month since 2020 began, an important part of moving into the New Year is reflecting on the interesting and busy year that 2019 has brought us. Especially for Mineplex, 2019 was full of changes: from games, to rules, to server systems, and so forth. However, as time passes, contextualizing and remembering when an update happened and what that change brought becomes more difficult, which is why the Newsletter has decided to provide a quick and comprehensible overview of Mineplex's 2019!

January

Kicking off 2019 with a bang, Mineplex certainly took the concept of "New Year, New Me" seriously! A little over a week into January, Mineplex replaced the old game queuing system on Java with a new one named "Butch," which allowed for more efficient usage of lobbies. The remainder of January's updates were dedicated primarily to receiving player feedback on Butch and subsequently adapting the program as seen fit, as well as to minor bug fixes, changes with the experience system, and the return of pre-game lobbies.

Bedrock received a major Cake Wars update, adding a variety of features to the game which made gameplay more interesting and smooth, including but not limited to the addition of items and blocks to the shop, block placement limits, Polly and TnT traps, animations, and final death messages.

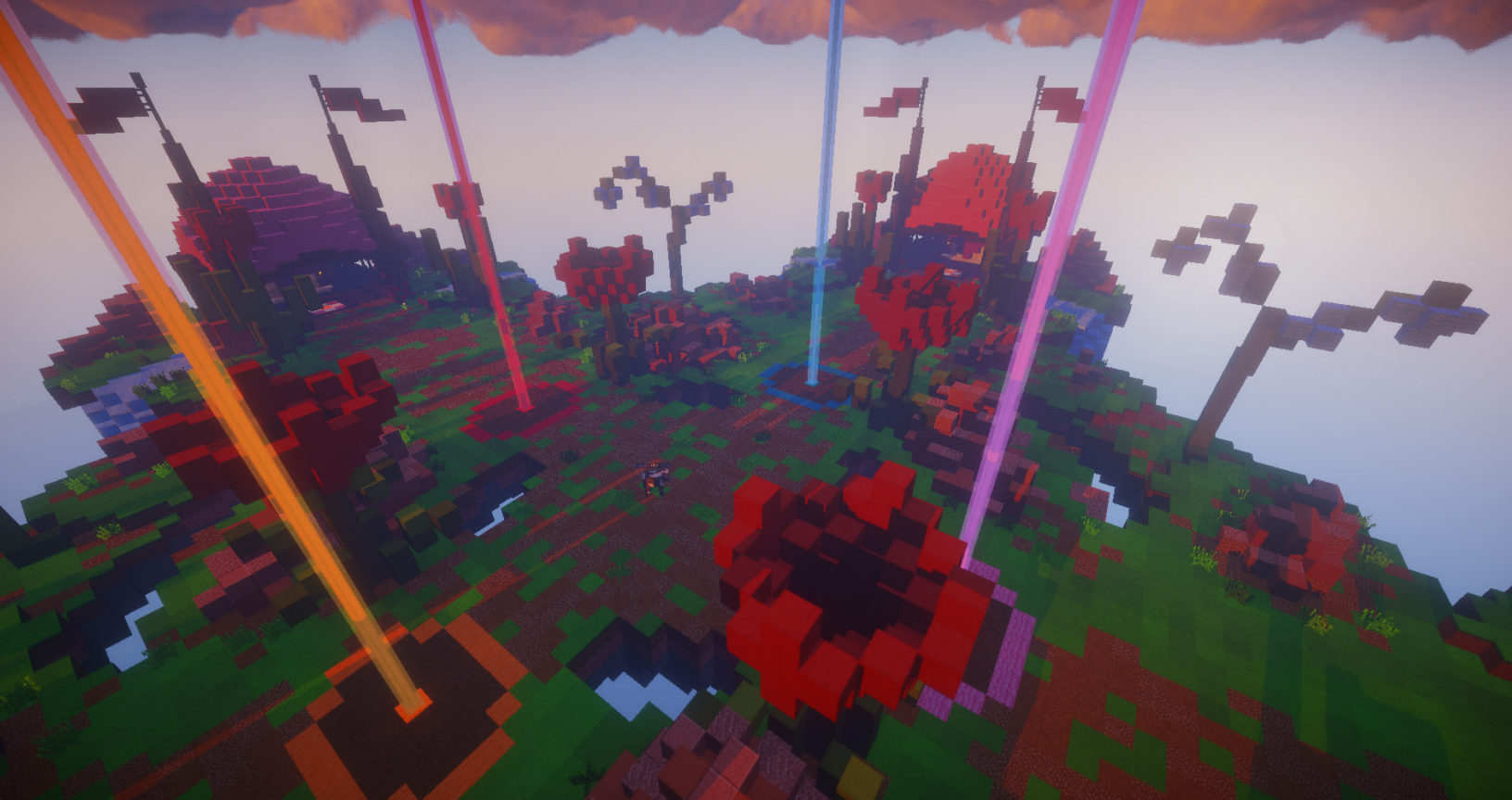
Additionally, Rules Committee (RC),

after discussing with the staff team, split Death Wishes from Abusive Behavior and labeled it as a severity 3 offense (except for the first mute for Death Wishes, which remained a severity 2 offense).

Furthermore, Community Management (CoM) announced the arrival of Feature Upvote, a platform which allowed players to briefly share feedback and/or ideas, as well as utilize an upvote system to demonstrate interest and/or agreeal with another post.

The Clash of the Cakes tournament was also posted early in January and began towards the end of the month, with 49 teams competing in order to secure exclusive particles, a title, and a sword name.

Unfortunately, January also brought t3hero's resignation from his position as Leader.



February

With Valentine's Day approaching, Mineplex released the beloved Valentine's update on Java, which brought along with it a new game, Rose Rush, Love Treasures, and Valentine's Treasures with brand new cosmetics, as well as the appropriately redecorated hub.

A housing update was released on Bedrock which added furniture, ratings, and Advertisement Tokens.

Sadly, Moppletop stepped down from his position on Mineplex as Developer in the middle of February.

March

Though March 1st led to the end of Rose Rush and the rest of the Valentine's update, the Group Up With Me update on Java brought a complete overhaul to communities. Realizing that players had

accumulated a mass amount of gems that could not be used, Mineplex added a Community Gem Bank, which could be enabled in order to unlock kits, add player slots, and purchase hub themes. New hub themes were also revealed, allowing players to have a more visually appealing community server. Staff ranks became visible in communities, players could toggle their visibility, and community moderation tools were added. Along with the Group Up With Me update came a mass of bug fixes to a variety of games across the server, as well as a new chatsnap interface, accessibility to /chatsnap for Legends, and chat mentions.

The Clash of the Cakes tournament wrapped up at the end of the month, with Team Ethereal securing the victory.

April

The month starting off with humor, April Fool's Day brought colorful skins and funky chat formatting to the server. Clans Season 6 on Java began later in the month, introducing brand new features such as Clans stats, leaderboards, and events, as well as smaller changes and bug fixes which improved the quality of gameplay. Champions also received alterations, such as changing cooldowns, removing aspects of abilities, and fixing descriptions. On Bedrock, a minor bug fix and Quality of Life changes for Survival were released, as well as an update that let parties become public or private, queueing for parties, and gem rewards.

Additionally, the TWITCH rank was renamed to STREAM, and the Badlion client was approved for use on Mineplex after extensive discussion with the community.

May

Shortly into May, 1.14 became supported on Mineplex. A large website update was released, which reworked the News Feed, added an aesthetic Play Now page, and improved the appearance of profiles on both mobile and non-mobile devices. Other smaller features and bug fixes were included within the website update as well.

In the middle of May, WebGlitch unfortunately stepped down from his position as Admin and Web Developer.

June

Throughout June, a variety of updates came to the server, covering a large area of the network. On Java, at the beginning of the month, several bugs were fixed, Power Play Club (PPC) received additional perks, and amplifier rewards were increased. Several other bugs were fixed and small features added as the month progressed, including but not limited to the Super Smash Mobs (SSM) sheep flight bug and preventing items from being obtainable in item frames on Survival Games (SG). Support for 1.14.3 was added as well. At the end of the month, a major Block Hunt update including changes to Hiders' armor, the renaming of Seekers to Hunters, the new Taser Hunter kit, and a variety of gameplay and bug fixes. On Bedrock, a bug with parties where parties were not put on the same team was fixed and on Mob Arena, gem payout and purchase models were modified and several issues and bugs were fixed.

RC added a public filtered words list with descriptions and reasoning included as per popular demand. Additionally, the public guidelines were redesigned, hackusation was moved under spam, and inappropriate

gameplay became a potentially severity 4 ban after repeated instances.

Another website update was released, which fixed a large amount of bugs and implemented several suggestions, such as the addition of Clans stats to player stats pages, the ability for users to lock their own threads, and more.

July

Right away, Mineplex began its celebration of Canadian and American Independence Days on Java by adding Freedom Chests, as well as fixing a variety of Block Hunt bugs from the prior update. Later in the month, a Mixed Arcade update which brought life back to the gamemode came to the server, adding a MIN server and reviving the original Arcade rotation. Additionally, minor bugs were fixed.

August

In August, the EU game servers were turned off, routing all traffic to US game servers. This led to much controversy, especially from competitive EU players who were placed at a disadvantage due to this routing and those who felt that communication about this update was overly delayed. Though competitive players hoped that there would be a system to get EU player servers, the EU game servers were removed completely.

Late in August, sadly, mepman9

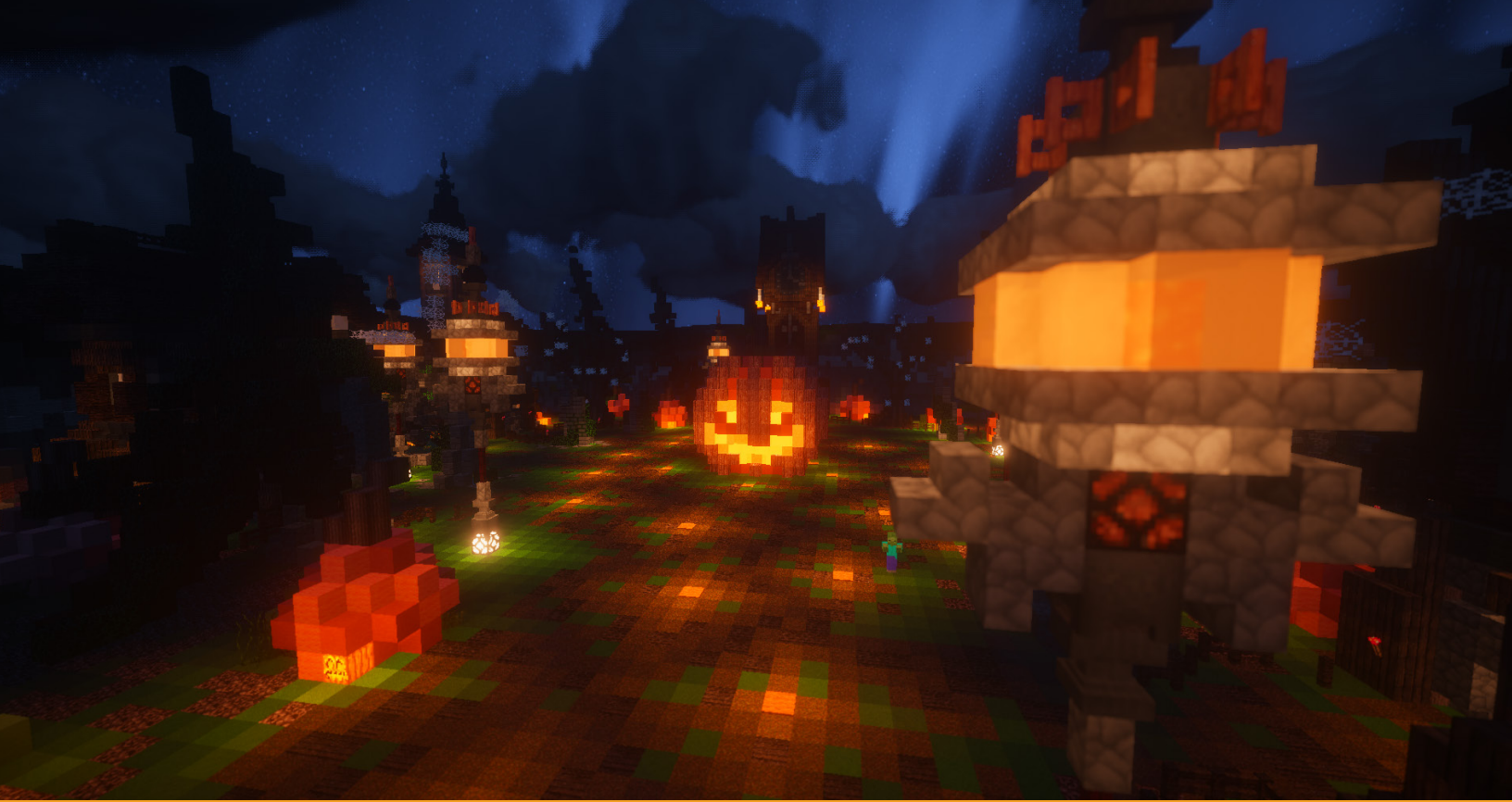
resigned from his position as Clans Management Admin, replaced by GrandpaNguyen, and ToonBasic resigned from his position as Developer.

September

As per the meme, Mineplex added the Area 51 Raid gamemode, which offered exclusive titles and a mission, as well as a correlating event hub and the return of Alien Invasion. Offering significant experience, Area 51 became extremely popular even after the experience rewards were decreased several times and the AFK kick times were reduced. The Event-1 server finally made a long awaited return to the server as well.

Unfortunately, as many players decided to exploit the experience rewards by Stat Boosting, RC decided to examine the amount of boosting when punishing for Stat Boosting and wipe the last month of statistics of offenders when deemed necessary.





October

Though Area 51 went away in October, spooky season came to both Java and Bedrock this year! On Java, players could explore the Halloween Hub, team up to take on Halloween Havoc, and look for rare cosmetics in Creepy Cauldrons and Legacy Halloween Treasures that came back to the server, as well as holiday blocks with rewards which spawned in games. The Halloween Hub also graced Bedrock with its presence, along with an eerie cauldron hunt and Halloween pets. Additionally, Bedrock received support for 1.13 users.

November

American and Canadian Thanksgiving came back to Java in the form of Thankful Treasures this November again, along with the removal of the Halloween update. A variety of minor bugs and achievements were fixed on Java and Bedrock throughout the course of the month as well.



December

Holiday cheer came to Mineplex in the form of a brand new event, missions, Christmas Chaos II, and Snow Fight on Java, as well as a wintery hub and sprawling present hunt on both Bedrock and Java! Players could explore the lobbies, collecting all the presents they could find and receive a reward for their efforts. Additionally, on Java, players completed an advent calendar from December 1st to Christmas, participating in a variety of challenges in order to collect exclusive cosmetics and expansive rewards. Though some players were upset that they did not realize the challenge had to be completed on the same day, all players who completed the advent still received exclusive rewards. BlueBeetleHD resigned from Head of Staff, replaced

by DeanTM, Jarvis resigned from his position as Forum Ninja Admin, replaced by Wanderer_, and EmmaLie became the new Social Media Admin.

Throughout 2019, changes across Mineplex ranging from game updates to administration resignations and promotions occurred. While not every change was perfect and some were much more popular than others, it still is important to reflect upon Mineplex's year in 2019 and to look forward for what is to come in 2020!

Valentine's Day Community Appreciation

By jxcb and Nolawn

It is that time of the year again! Chocolates are gifted, roses are passed from one to another, and love is shared all around. This year for Mineplex's Valentine's Day, we wanted to take the time to appreciate the people who make the entire server go around: our community members. Too often, people are thanking certain groups and a few select individuals on the network, and it's not very often that we take a step back to realize that everyone in the community deserves to be appreciated. For this holiday, we wanted to change that! Everyone on the network has an impact, no matter if the player recently joined or has been here from the start. In order to do this, a form was sent out for all of our members to write a quick, a long, or an anything-in-between message for another member of our community!

Before we dive into what our members have to say about each other, we would like to sort one small thing out: There were many responses to the form that was posted for this article. Because of this, we are not able to fit everyone's responses into the article. Please understand that even if your message was not featured, everyone on the staff team and the community appreciate you for everything that you do. Without further adieu, let us see what our members are saying about everyone!

From: Goudge

To: Sobki

"I would like to take a moment to appreciate Jay, who works so hard to maintain our Java platform. We love you silly Sobki <3."

From: Landay

To: EmmaLie

"Thank you for being the best friend that anyone could have ever asked for. You've been there for me through everything in the last two-ish years. I couldn't have gotten through tough times without you, and I'm so appreciative. I love you dummy mwah mwah xoxo."

From: GardevoirAura

To: ScarletBlood37, Thenorn, and KerbalBoy

"I'm so thankful to have these friends in my friendship group! They're just the best and it's pretty cool to see that 2 of them are staff members. We're thinking of playing CW standard this weekend and once again, they're just the best! We name ourselves something along the lines of The Awesome Quadruo (It's pretty corny lol). But they're very inspiring and very friendly! <3."

From: Ojoe

To: saltyfishhy

"Thank you, salty, for being a great and responsible friend to me for these past months. I'm so glad we found each other in a lobby and squadded up for cake wars. Ever since then, we've really opened up and become more comfortable with each other. You were the one to really bring me into the Mineplex community. You have helped me greatly in my assertion of thoughts and ideas, and the fact that you're my age really lets us connect and relate to each other. I'm so thankful that we became acquainted and I hope this friendship continues for a very, very long time."

From: Anonymous

To: Squirreelflight05

"Thank you so much for being such a supportive person who is always there for me when I need help. You always have my back. I can't say enough good things about you. Lots of love x."

From: freddey

To: Iscariot

"Since my return to Mineplex, Ian (Iscariot) has been so kind and welcoming to me. He has inspired me in so many different ways through his art and his words, and I can't thank him enough for being so generous and friendly. I hope to see our friendship do nothing but grow and can't wait to see what other ways he can inspire myself as well as the rest of the Mineplex community."

From: DaPBillk

To: xhaeilleh

"Thank you so much for the conversations we have had in voice chat. :) I really enjoy them and you're pretty funny lol Thanks for brightening up my day!"

From: WowCaleb

To: Thenorn , xGetRektedx , LT
Tombstone 77 , Klobby

"A huge thanks to you for helping me settle into Mineplex so much better since I came back and being completely legends, even more so than me ;) and hope to stay in contact with you <333."

From: Animalll

To: Crazyy_Tim

"Thanks for being a very funny, witty and fun person to play mp with and talk to!"

From: saltyfishhy

To: Klobby

"Klobby is by far the most supportive, kind, caring, and genuine people I've ever encountered in my life. EVERY. SINGLE. DAY. He makes my life better. I've talked to him for literal hours at a time and without fail he always proves to be an amazing person. He is friendly, honest, trustworthy, and ridiculously caring for people, and I wanted to write this to show my appreciation for that. He's stood by me for 2 months now and has been an amazing friend throughout the entirety of it. Without him, I'd be in a lot worse situation and I am so proud to call him my friend."

Thank you to everyone who filled out the form to thank another member of this community! We hope that you have a happy Valentine's Day and continue to share the love.

Interview Interest Form

By Sophie_OGrady

Upon reflecting as a team and what we can improve on, we have realized that a common inquiry relates to how we choose who to interview for each edition. Currently, our writers are responsible for seeking out community and staff members to interview for their articles, if required. This results in similar people being interviewed every month without illustrating a true cross-section of the Mineplex community -- and we want to change this. We believe it is important that we give everyone an equal opportunity to share their opinion in the Newsletter. Thus, the Newsletter Team has decided to create a form which allows anyone interested to let us know a bit about you and your interests at Mineplex. This way, if our writers want to interview someone relating to a topic relevant to you, they will reach out and you may be featured in a future Newsletter! However, it should be noted that filling out this form does not guarantee you an interview.

If you are interested in being interviewed by our team, please fill out the following form and we may contact you in the future: <https://forms.gle/UUX2YojsgFXpzKM77>.



Caption the Image

By Marzie

Love is in the air and Cupid is looking for new people to pair. Whether you have a special someone or are alone this February, rest assured there are highly discounted chocolate after Valentine's Day! Moolanie and Calvin are spending their Valentine's Day at a nice resort and want you to caption their postcard!

Simply take a peek at the image above 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!

<https://forms.gle/64SuuRPioQYh8qTW7>

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



Animalll: "Here we have a wild wither, they are known for attacking anyone near th- AHHHH"

Borderr: "Charles Witherton is Back For Revenge"

Tilgorn: "Man, he sure is giving us a withering glare."

Impact Poetry

By Spoiler

Hello everyone! As continues our monthly tradition, Impact Poetry is here for the month of February, offering a new chance to display your creativity and the opportunity to read through the lovely work of fellow readers. If you are unfamiliar with the game, here are the basics:

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.

This month, our theme will be love/romance. The style is up to your choice, you are free to craft any form of poetry. For your poem to be properly displayed in the Newsletter, please try to keep your work under 15 lines. Submit your responses here: <https://forms.gle/bzzSFXT3ug8CTEeq9>

Prizes:

1st Place - 3 Mythicals

2nd Place - 1 Mythical & 1 Ancient

Last month's prompt was new beginnings/realizations and the form of poetry was a haiku. Here are our two winners from last month!

Be sure to congratulate these two fine writers on their talented work! We look forward to seeing our future poems for next month's theme: love/romance.

1st Place:

By: freddey

Sunrises, sunsets

Do not fear the changes near

Let sunlight guide you

2nd Place:

By: li1a

the autumn colors

have been touched by the winter's

bleak, beautiful hand

January Staff Statistics

By jxcb

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

January 4th: honeuy, lightningbtw_
January 11th: FreakingNick,
MachoPiggies, Quixyz
January 18th: Camull, Chromuh,
Creadword, Documents, Specy,
Sterrio_, freddey

Bedrock Trainee

January 4th: Jaborrie
January 11th: Inf3rrior81, ScarletBlood37

Java Mod

January 4th: THELichCA
January 11: Im_Ken, rqil

Senior Mod

January 4th: Acaulis, jxcb (Quality Assurance)
January 14th: Siccle, Tilgorn (Community Management)
January 17th: Wolfayy (Forum Ninja)
January 18th: Epicbuilder435, neotheater (Recruitment)
January 22nd: Busjack5, Jhazu, nail_care (Clans Management)

Builder

January 2nd: dekkster
January 29th: MysticCrew

Resignations

January 1st: Luvli
January 3rd: TooMuchXMas4You
January 8th: ssnip (Community Management)
January 13th: Firestar891 (Recruitment), DeadOnMidnight
January 14th: Quixyz
January 15th: lightningbtw_
January 16th: AceSJus (Forum Ninja)
January 20th: TheBlueComet (Builder)
January 21st: Sterrio_
January 22nd: January34
January 25th: Artix (Quality Assurance)
January 30th: _H2O (Forum Ninja)

1st Year Milestones:

January 29th: ezlee6

4th Year Milestones:

January 29th: Phamtastic

Lastly, shoutout to ImFirewalker for becoming our second community Quality Assurance member!

Meet the Team



AGLThree: Hola! I'm AGLThree and I lead the Newsletter Program! I'm currently a Sr. Mod on Recruitment, a CMP mentor, and an RPA member. I'm a Grey's Anatomy fan and enjoy doing ceramics, but my true main goal in life is to get the Connect 4 gadget on Mineplex.



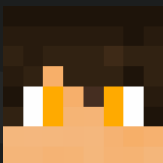
Tortelett: hi I did make the pdf



IntoRainbows: hi I like art :)



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



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!



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!

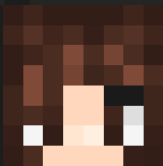


BaconAnEggs: Hey, what's up! I'm BaconAnEggs an editor and writer for the Newsletter Program! When on Mineplex, you can find me playing Skywars or Mixed Arcade! Outside of Mineplex I love Mario Kart and Harry Potter! #TeamHufflepuff!



jxcb: Hello hello! I'm jxcb, a member of Quality Assurance 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.

Meet the Team



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 Writor & Editor for NL! Learn my enitre 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.



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.