



MINEPLEX NEWSLETTER

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CREATED BY THE NEWSLETTER AND MEDIA STAFF

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HOLIDAY FEVER!

BY: XSTAR_89

It's finally December, and you know what that means... Winter has come! To celebrate the upcoming holiday festivities and wintertime pleasantries, we've interviewed some staff and community members, asking about their favorite parts of the season. Here's what they had to say!

What's your favorite part about the holidays/winter season?

Arcrean: "My favorite part would have to be my family gathering together. Most of my family is scattered across the country or in a totally different country. The holidays are basically the only time my family gets together to see each other."

ShawnLionSin: "I personally like the new stuff that Mineplex puts out like the holiday games, treasure chests, and the new cosmetics stuff."

Swimmer_: "I love the feel the seasons bring, how people are happy, and families come together sometimes for the only time during the year. As some songs say, it's the most wonderful time of the year."

What are you looking forward to this December?

toxic13d: "This year, I am looking forward to the snow; I am also looking forward to our Christmas Roast lunch that we have at Christmas. I can't wait for Christmas Chaos this year. Last year it was amazing. I do look forward to the gifts however, I could do without them as I've got so many. I am mainly looking forward to our party that we do; our whole family comes 'round to enjoy. Near the end of the month, I am looking forward to the New Year. I love to watch the fireworks on New Year's Eve in London on the TV. I am looking forward to hearing the Christmas songs on the radio and I'm already listening to them on Spotify. I believe this will be a great Christmas."

EniOneThere: "This December, I have a multitude of things planned. I'm assisting with hosting a fundraiser; everything collected is being donated to an organization which gives gifts for low/no income families within (in this case) the winter season. Along with that, I have a nearly month long break which gives me a ton of time to spend time with others."

Harvvey: "Definitely Christmas Day. All the family is coming 'round our place and we're going to have a very large roast together and then share our presents with each other. It's one of the few times our family properly gets together in the year so it's always nice to see everyone and have fun."

HOLIDAY FEVER

BY: XSTAR_89

What's your favorite memory of something that you did/happened to you in the winter?

Hylore: "I had a lot of time during my winter holidays to travel the world - at one point, we travelled to Thailand and Singapore. It was incredible to see the culture there - especially during such a western holiday as Christmas. It's amazing to see how Christmas is celebrated throughout the world."

Sophie_OGrady: "When I was younger, my family and my best friend's family went up to the snow and one night we were all just sitting around a fire outside and it was just an awesome night. We were singing, dancing, and just having a really good time. Later that night it started to snow and all the stars were really bright and twinkling and it felt magical. It was just the perfect experience to share with some awesome people."

AMdoesGaming: "My greatest memory is from when I was 4 years old. There was at least 4 feet of snow, and I got to spend the day with my family and friends while having snowball fights."

ohsnapitsrosie: "One memory was when we all had that Minecraft event where Santa showed up and the staff were dressed up as elves. Also, IRL we had a lot of snow one year and it lasted for almost a week. We don't get much snow where I'm from so it was pretty exciting."

Are there any special traditions you enjoy during the holidays?

SwimKitty: "There's a Greek tradition called a 'Name Day' where your name gets celebrated on a specific day of the year depending on what your name is. My 'Name Day' happens to fall on Christmas!"

FullyCanadian: "Nothing too crazy, but on Christmas Eve, my family and I drive around for an hour or so and look at the Christmas lights. We see lots of cool decorations!"

HOLIDAY WRITING COMPETITION!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

As days come closer to the end of 2016, the weather is colder and the holiday season is here! In spirit of the holidays, the Newsletter team held a "Holiday Writing Competition" where community members could submit their writing works. There were many amazing submissions, and here are some of the best ones. Thank you to everyone who entered our competition and have a happy holiday!

Space Between the Cold Days

Submitted by InkWings (Banksy)

Snowy face, holidays, leaves have fallen, changing their ways,
walking in the cold, holding your hand, summer is long gone, long walks in the sand,
York in the Winter, bittersweet memories, daymare intimacy, shapeshifting calamities,
but I'm really trying, as I hold you close, look into my green eyes - I'll never let you go,
I said the truth, maybe it was tough, sometimes times get dark, when the going gets rough,
and there's nowhere to run, there's nowhere to hide, where will you go, when our worlds collide?
Over again, last hope for the times, the snowflakes are making patterns, collecting frost in my mind,
Try to often, never forget your worth, I love the way you laugh, tonight's our last Winter on earth.

~ Holiday Spells ~

Submitted by Aurealia

Gust of winter breeze;
A time where car windows freeze;
My cold breath forms a cloud in the air;
The time of holidays washes away our despair.
We sing festive carols as we put up the tree;
The world, harmony and peace is free.
The first of December is the ultimate countdown;
And when that day arrives is when the bearded man comes to town
. We gather around the tree and open our gifts;
Whilst outside there is a big snowdrift.
Enjoying the time with our loved ones and all;
Remembering the good times we had in fall.
The night has come, it's time to rest;
We are all at our very best.

HOLIDAY WRITING COMPETITION!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Alice that lived up in the hills of Maine. Her house seemed magical to the people that saw or came into it. So big and seeming bigger inside. Alice, although 12 years old, had still not explored all of the rooms of the house. She always wondered what was in the basement, but she was not allowed down there. On Christmas eve, Alice went to the bottom of the hill to collect some water since the family did not have a plumbing system setup. She was fetching the water from the well and setting the buckets filled with water to the side. She felt a tug on her blue and white lace dress and looked behind her to find a little elf, smiling at Alice and tugging on her dress. Alice screamed, fell back, and hit her head on the stone well, causing her to pass out. When Alice woke up, she was in a giant room with wood covering the walls. Elves were all around her and were dipping their tiny hands into the water that was next to her when she was outside and patting it upon her head. 'Weren't those buckets outside with me just a minute ago?' She thought and looked at all of the Elves around her and gasped. "Please, please, relax. We will get you in bed shortly." One elf said softly and patted her on the head. "Who are you elves? Where am I? Please, get me out of here!" Alice yelled and tried to get up but an elf pushed her down strongly but gently. "You are in our workshop. This is where we make all of our toys and ship them out to Santa Claus," a different elf said. The elves looked like regular people, just smaller and cuter. Their green and red outfits suited them perfectly. "So you just took me... to the North Pole?" Alice asked and looked at all of the elves, not getting over how cute they were. "Well... Not exactly. You see, there are 3 places where elves access our workshop. There's the actual workshop, the Empire State Building, and your basement in your house." One elf said and smiled at Alice. Alice stood up, baffled at the thought that she could've accessed Santa's Workshop for all of these years. "May I help prepare? I want to help or do something while I am here," Alice pleaded while looking down on the elves. "I guess you could do something... Would you like to ride in Santa's sleigh tonight?" An elf asked semi-casually. "Are you serious?" Alice asked, excitement building up in her body, awaiting answers. "Yes. We will tell Santa as soon as we can. Safe travels!" All but one of the elves said and ran off to their duties. "I will get you your clothes right away Miss." The last elf said and rushed off. Alice looked around the room, still getting over the fact that she was at the real Santa's Workshop and not only that, but she got to ride in his sleigh! When it was time to depart, Alice had on a thick brown fur coat and earmuffs and knitted mittens. She smiled to the elves, and when all was prepared, Santa and Alice set out for the millions of houses all around the world. "Well, Alice. Nice to finally have you in my sleigh! I have wanted you here before since you have been such a good girl." Santa said and looked at her and smiled. "M-my gosh. I-I am j-just s-so excit-ed to be h-here right-t now-w!" Alice stuttered from her nerves. Alice looked down to see all of the houses below her with their chimneys blowing out smoke and the snow covered trees. "Well, I am glad to hear that. If you could have any wish, Alice, what would it be?" Santa asked and made a sharp right turn with his sleigh. "To make this night last as long as possible," Alice laughed, "and to be able to go down in the basement whenever I want to help your elves." Alice said and looked at Santa. "Well, I can make that happen!" He yelled and laughed and Alice and Santa went house after house delivering presents to kids all around the world. The night lasted as long as Alice wanted it to and when she got back home, Santa tucked her in and said, "I'll see you tomorrow, Alice the elf." Santa whispered and smiled and crept out the door. Alice started crying tears of joy and looked out her window in front of her to see the stars twinkling and the snow falling from the clouds above. Alice slowly drifted asleep and could not wait for what years fell ahead of her.

Short story submitted by Eastiies

POCKET EDITION UPDATES!

BY: SUSPICIOUS

Mineplex Pocket Edition has been doing extremely well since launch, with thousands of players online every day! And along with it, some pretty awesome updates and new features have been released, including a brand new gamemode and rank! Here are some short summaries of the recent updates.

Dating back to October 8, the day Mob Arena was released: This was something players only occasionally experienced in Mineplex events before, but as of recent, it became an official game of the Pocket Edition server! In this gamemode, players must work together to stop the constant waves of monsters summoned into the arena. The mobs drop tokens, which can be exchanged for better equipment in the center of the map. The survivors at the end of all the rounds are pronounced winners!

Next, we had the release of crates! These three loot-filled trunks are very similar to the PC server's Treasure Chests. The most common chest is the Noble Crate. In this crate, you can open four boxes, each containing cheap cosmetics and occasionally some rare goodies. In Royal Crates, you also are able to open four chests, but with the chance of acquiring a legendary item. And finally, in Imperial Crates, you can only open one chest, but you are guaranteed a rare or legendary cosmetic that you don't already possess!

Following crates was the implementation of Bomb Lobbers! This game functions exactly like the PC Bomb Lobbers, albeit with some small adjustments to make it a little more PE friendly.

And finally, on the 15th of November was the lobby update! Carl and his friends finally made the journey to Mineplex Pocket Edition, and have taken their usual stance in the lobby. Upon clicking/tapping them, you are able to claim daily and monthly rewards! Additionally, a brand new lobby was released resembling a castle!

These last couple of months have been filled to the brim with updates, and hopefully many more are to come in the near future! Remember you can check out the PE server for yourself at any time with the IP pe.mineplex.com. All you need is a phone, tablet, or Windows 10!



NEW MC ADMIN INTERVIEW!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

On Halloween, months after BlueBeetleHD was promoted to be Head of Staff, PleaseTeamIFan was chosen as the new Moderator Coordination Admin! I had the opportunity to interview him on his new projects and his reaction on getting his position. Be sure to congratulate our new admin!

What was your reaction when you became the new Mod Coordination Admin?

"I obviously was really excited to hear the news, and that all of the work I have been doing for the last year and a half had paid off. At that point, I was just ready and ecstatic to get started!"

What was your staff journey before you got the position?

"I started my time as staff on May 22nd, 2015. I started as Trainee, and then I was promoted to Moderator 2 months later. December 22nd, 2015 was when I became a part of the Mod Coord team, where I initially began as mentor and monitor. In late February I became the TeamSpeak Staff Lead, and later on in July I became the mentoring manager within Mod Coord. I still carry these positions even through October 1st, which is when my promotion to Admin was publicly announced!"

What are your plans for the Pocket Edition side of staff management?

"It is going to be relatively similar to how things are managed on the PC side of Mod Coord. However, there are certainly limitations with this program compared to what we are used to. All in all, there will be much more of an engagement without Pocket Edition Staff. More constant check-ins to ask how the Moderator is doing, what they did that day, if they had any questions, etc. This will be our initial way to ensure they are performing up to our standards."

Do you have any plans to improve how the team functions?

"I will first work outside and then come in. Recently Moderators have been surveyed regarding their general opinions on how our current Moderator system operates. Based on their feedback, I will bring their responses back into the team and make improvements based on this. One focus I already have is interaction. I will be looking to encourage more interaction between Mod Coord and Moderators, Moderators and Moderators, and Moderators and the community."

What is a fun fact about you?

"I love photography! I have been working with photography for about 7 years now, and it's something I've grown passionate about. At my school I am a Photo Club officer, and I plan to keep learning and taking pictures!"

TRAINEE INTERVIEWS!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

This month, we interviewed two recent Trainees from the batch of October 28th, 2016. In this interview, we uncover their hidden thoughts on their future goals, Mineplex inspirations, and find out more about their lives outside of Mineplex!

When did you get accepted and what is your batch name?

Khartier: "I was accepted in 10/28/16 and our batch name is the TrickOrEat batch."

LaurDonuts: "I was accepted as a Trainee on 10/28/2016 and my batch name is #TrickOrEatBatch. We came up with this decision after finding out the thing we love the most, eating!"

What are you looking to accomplish in your Trainee trial?

Khartier: "For my Trial I'm here to make sure I learn as much as I can, while having a ton of fun while doing it. My main focus will probably be for making sure I know all the procedures and rules, and gaining a better understanding of each section. Even in my first week I've learned a ton and I really want to keep at it with learning."

LaurDonuts: "I'm looking forward to create an amazing atmosphere wherever I go during my Trainee trial, along with giving positive vibes and the best service all the time. I have thought about some teams that would fit my personality and the things I do the best, such as Media Team and Trainee Management. As I'm a GFX Artist and a volunteer, I feel that these teams would be perfect for me."

Did anyone inspire you to apply for Trainee?

Khartier: "Yes, I had a lot of people inspire me to become Trainee. My few friends before applying really pushed me and helped me along the way. When I met Shawn, Awesomemas, Vanessa, Burntchrome, these people really helped me along the way. I would have to they pushed me when I felt down, and because of them I never gave up because of them."

LaurDonuts: "The Staff team and the community were the ones that inspired me to apply for Trainee. I was fascinated by the professionalism the Staff team possessed and how the community worked. My wish is getting to know the community better every day, learning to deal with different situations and making it a better and safe place. I feel honoured and pleased to be a part of this family."

TRAINEE INTERVIEWS!

BY: KANEBRIDGE

Do you have any goals?

Khartier: "For my goals, honestly, is to learn as much as I can about the Mineplex Server within a staff member's point of view. I want to grow as a person and meet some new people. Of course my whole goal as a Trainee is to become a Mod, but I don't see why I can't have a lot of fun along the way. Teams wise, I would say I have not made any decisions yet on anything I want to join, but I do want to get more involved within the community."

LaurDonuts: "My main goal at Mineplex is to influence the network positively and inspire people. Followed by my big dream of joining Trainee Management or Social Media in the future. I have set a lot of goals and promises to myself that I want to make reality in the Staff team and I can't wait to start working on them."

What are your hobbies outside of Mineplex?

Khartier: "I enjoy running on my cross country team. It's an amazing experience and I have met wonderful people by being on the team. When running, it's a very independent, very mental sport. I also play the Double Bass. It's that really big interment you hear in the back of an orchestra. It's challenging to learn, but also has a beautiful sound when played."

LaurDonuts: "My hobbies outside of Mineplex are singing, volunteering and making graphic design, as I'm a GFX Artist. Singing is a very big and significant part of my life, as I want to become a singer when I become an adult."

QA PROMOTIONS AND INTERVIEW!

BY: HAZEAE24

As of November 10th and November 15th, new members of the Quality Assurance Testing Team and Quality Assurance were announced! Congratulations to _H2O, MyLostSoul, Block2Block, and PresidentPigglez on joining the Quality Assurance Testing team! These staff members are soon-to-be experts of in-game balance and discovering new bugs to squash in-game, but what else do they do on the team? Enjoy a Quality Assurance Interview with the newest Quality Assurance members: KingCrazy_ and fireflydestroyer!

What does your team do/specialize in?

KingCrazy_: Quality Assurance specializes in making sure that everything is working the way it is suppose to and making sure things such as new features and maps are balanced and enjoyable.

fireflydestroyer: Quality Assurance had a few main jobs, answering bug/map reports and testing new features. So for the last map update we tested those maps to make sure they work for gameplay.

What is your personal goal or your team's main goal/focus?

KingCrazy_: As cliché as it may seem, the main goal of Quality Assurance is to assure quality. This is because we are responsible to make sure that everything is working properly so that the players are able to have a fun time.

fireflydestroyer: My personal goal to clear the map/bug reports before the end of November. Our goal as a whole is to make sure the games, updates, and maps are bug free. We also are the community site for communication with the development side of Mineplex. So if a major bug comes around you need to let us know and we'll try our best to get it fixed ASAP.

What is your favorite part about the team?

KingCrazy_: My favorite part about this team so far is seeing the amount of effort and work that everyone puts into making sure everything is okay so that the players in the community can have an enjoyable experience.

fireflydestroyer: I love how I'm able to see the the change which happens between a game being an idea and a game being released. Watching Skyfall develop was very fun and being able to know and see how I was part of the process was very satisfying.

What has motivated you to be a member of Quality Assurance?

KingCrazy_: The main thing that has motivated me to join the Quality Assurance is helping to make sure that everything works and helping to make sure that there is no problems for the community so they are able to have the best experience possible. Another thing that has motivated me was that it has always been a goal of mine to join this team as this team stands out compared to the other teams.

fireflydestroyer: I've always loved testing games and new features. I've never really liked a constantly doing the same job over and over again. Most of the other Senior Moderator jobs are doing the same thing over and over again which is why they didn't appeal to me. I love the different things we are able to test, from new maps to new games it's different every time.

CAPTION THE IMAGE!

BY: IPBJSAMMICH

We're back with yet another "Caption the Image!" This month, December, in honor of the holiday season (totallythebesttimeoftheyearwhatareyoutalkingabout), we at the Mineplex Newsletter have prepared a festive screenshot from last year's decour! It's your job, as brave players in this perilous game, to, in short, CAPTION THE IMAGE! Think of the funniest, stupidest, or overall best caption you can think of for the December image provided, and you may be featured in next month's Newsletter! All rules will be on the submission form!

Here's this month's image!



And here's the form for submitting your responses! Good Luck!
<https://goo.gl/forms/HdoSdrlPF6ksFQ0J2>

We only had one winner this last month.
"What happened to the tree's leaves?
It got Web-Glitched"
-FoxPhoenix



GUESS THE LOCATION!

BY: EMILIE

It's that time again! Time to play the original Mineplex newsletter game, Guess the Location! The rules are simple; a screenshot will be taken from a random place in our main lobby, and it'll be your job to guess where the screenshot was taken! All guesses will be submitted through the Google Form linked below. Three random and correct guesses will be selected, and the winners will be rewarded two Mythical Chests!

Before we start, here are some simple rules to follow:

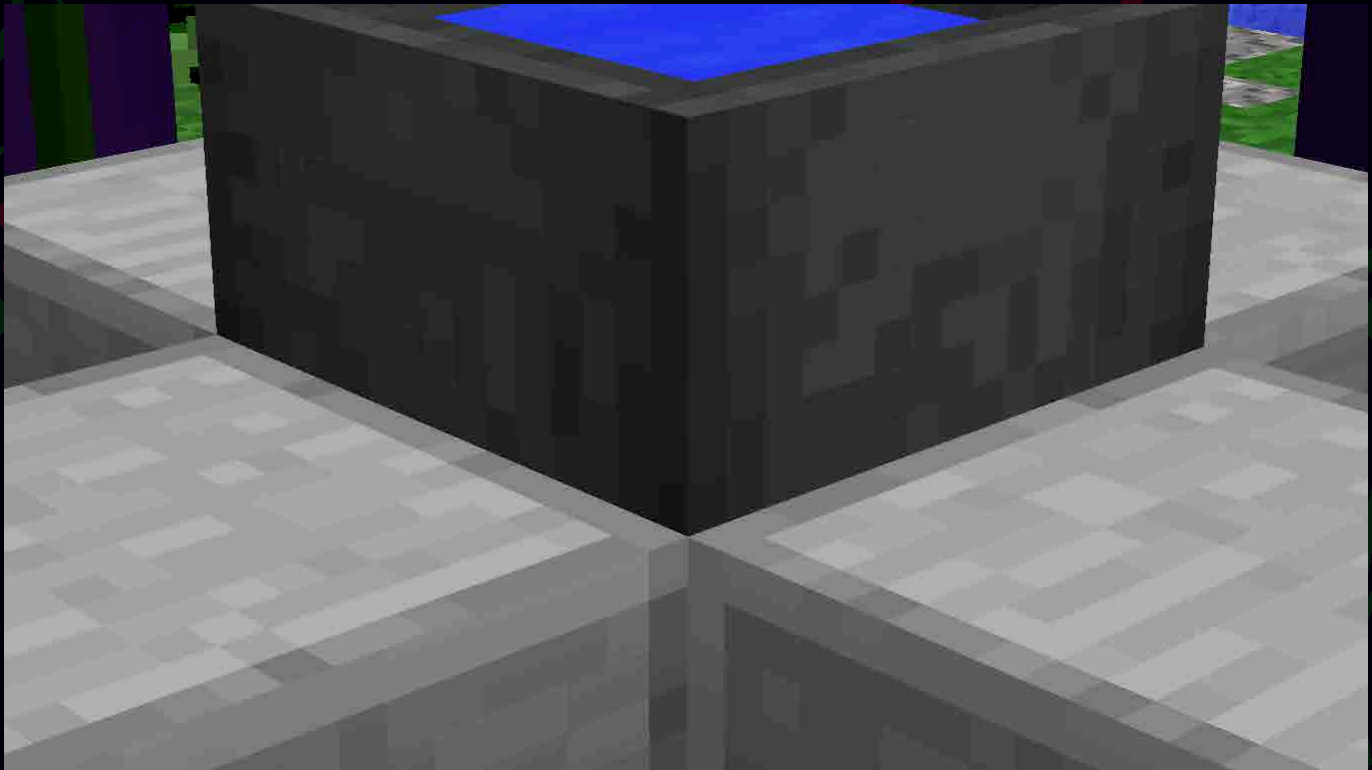
Don't only use coordinates for your answer

Only one submission per username

Do not spam the Google Form

When filling out your submission, remember to be as detailed as possible!

Now, for this month's screenshot:



Submit your guess through this form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/5ovNSclsHvOvGvZv2>

Last, but not least, here are last month's winners!

Wolfiej

SqueakyTacos

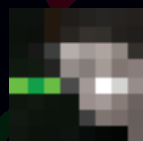
OnlyMinty

Congrats! You guys will be given two Mythical Chests as soon as possible!

PAGE ELEVEN

STAFF BIOS

BY: TORTELETT



WebGlitch: Hello there! My name is WebGlitch! I am the Social Media Admin and one of the first Newsletter managers. Hope you like this issue!



Crumplex: Hi, I'm Crum. I have been a staff member on Mineplex since 2014, and I am currently on the social media team. I manage the Media team, Newsletter team, and YT. I also spend a lot of time on the Mineplex Twitter! Follow us @Mineplex :)



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've been staff since April of 2015. I'm currently a Senior Moderator and a mentor for Mod Coordination, alongside being on 4 different sub-teams, including the Newsletter Team! I love to meet new people and try new things, music, and ice-cream. I'm usually in-game or on TeamSpeak, so I hope to see you around!



Tortelettt: 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. Hope you enjoyed reading it!



jOjo: Heyoo, my name's jOjo and I'm the worst PvPer in Minecraft. I'm a senior moderator and work within the Forum Ninja, Forum Moderator Mentoring, Reports Patrol and Newsletter teams (writing + editing) here on Mineplex. I enjoy interacting with others, writing in journalism and spending time with friends. Thanks for reading this month's issue!



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.

STAFF BIOS

BY: TORTELETT



Hazeae24: Hello! My name is Haze! 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've been a Mineplex Moderator since March of 2016. Other than a Newsletter Writer, I am in five other sub-teams. I love drawing and reading my free time, along with writing stories and articles for you guys! If you see me on the server, be sure to say hi.



Icefall: Hey, I'm Ice. (: I joined the staff team on 9/9/16 and was promoted to mod on 10/22/16. Currently I participate on the media and of course the newsletter sub-teams. I love all things creative, whether that be arts or writing. If you see me online be sure to say hi!



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!



JackSquire: Hey! I'm JackSquire. I am currently a Moderator, and I recently joined the Newsletter Team. I joined the staff team on July 8th, 2016. Out of Mineplex, I play soccer, and I ski in the winter!

