

Hi Everyone!

It's been too long since I've talked to you guys... and I have a whole two months of adventures to fill you in on!

DECEMBER:

The month began with a belated Thanksgiving celebration with my fellow PCVs and Grenadian friends. We all shared a tiny delicious turkey (supplemented with KFC that one of the volunteers brought) and gorged ourselves on other divine delicacies like mashed potatoes, stuffing, deviled eggs, and so much more that I couldn't fit in my belly. Everyone loved my pies, and I officially got my Grenadian friend June hooked on pecan pie! She had never had it before and made me promise to bake her a pecan pie for her birthday (which I did 2 weeks ago!).



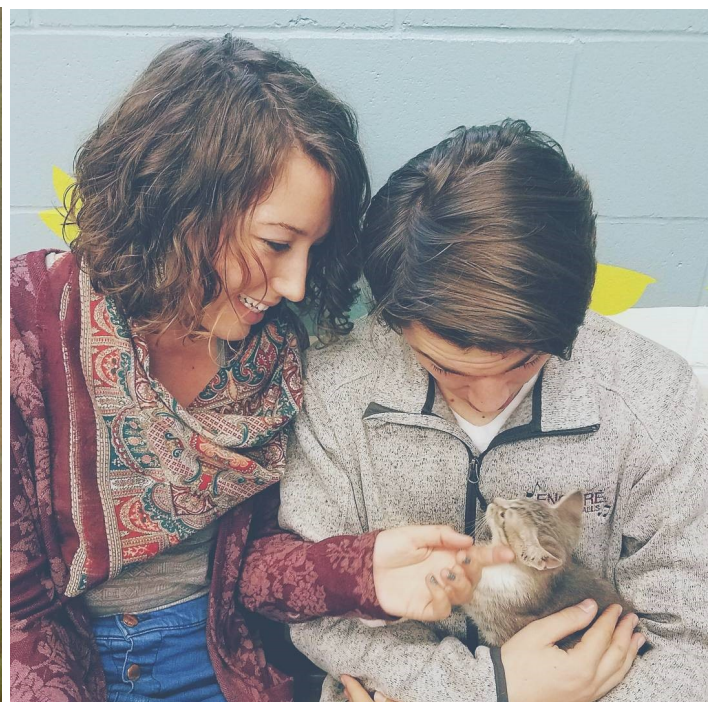
We had a delightful last week of school; made a Christmas Tree pinata for our class Christmas Party, played musical chairs, and the kids opened gifts from each other. We also had a Christmas concert where the Beginner and Advanced Ukulele groups performed a few songs. I was so proud of them! They did an excellent job.

My 3-week Christmas Vacation began with a Staff Christmas party at one of the local beach resorts- we danced and enjoyed all-inclusive food and drink- truly the life of luxury! We had a gift exchange- I gave the kindergarten teacher a "Christmas shoe" (one of my old shoes that I painted red and green with "Merry Christmas" written on the sole!) and I received a roll of toilet paper and a pet rock.

We all got a whole lot of giggles out of it! The day ended with bowling at the island's only bowling alley- Lavo Lanes- and I fell asleep on the ride home! A few days after, I was invited to go to the Lightship with my boss and his family- a floating restaurant & music venue- on an old ferry boat. We spent the evening listening to some amazing live music by a popular local jazz group called Soul Deep. It was right then and there I decided to have my 24th birthday party on The Lightship!



Later that week, I departed for the U.S. for 2 weeks- into the arctic tundra I went! It had been two years since I had seen the snow so it was quite the shock to go from 80 degree weather to Minnesota winter. While I spent most of my time in Fergus Falls, I did enjoy a brief couple of days in Minneapolis/St. Paul visiting friends and family. It was a restful, cheer-filled, festive two weeks and I cherished every minute of it. However, it wasn't as hard to leave as I thought... realizing that I only have 6 months left in Grenada, I was eager to get back to my beloved island.



JANUARY:

This month seemed to last forever! We rang in the New Year in style; we got all dolled up and had dinner at a fancy new Indian restaurant called Punj-Abi, then went to a big party at The Grenadian- a beach resort nearby. People were dressed to the nines- we saw women in floor-length gowns, men in sparkly suits (most notable- one of those "mermaid sequined" suits!) I almost felt under-dressed in my little floral silver party dress! The live band of the night was Kes- a popular soca group from Trinidad. They came on just after midnight when the dazzling fireworks were shot off just over our heads as we danced on the dance floor. It truly was a night to remember.



This month back at school has been very productive; keeping on schedule with all of my individual lessons, and getting my ukulele rehearsals in every week. Now that we are in Term 2, I am trying to focus less of my time on creating resources and more on the actual teaching. Of course, that just gets more difficult to do as Term 2 is also Sports Term. The school is preparing for Sports Day- which is happening next week. Qualifying students will compete in different track and field events and have the opportunity to move up to the parish level, and eventually, the national level. The three houses- Red, Yellow, and Green- will be competing against each other, and my loyalty to Green house continues into this year! Whichever house with the most points at the end of the day wins!

I've also continued my weekly Thursday Game/Arts & Crafts Day at Ms. Bowman's! My neighbourhood kiddos have really been getting in touch with their artistic sides, trying out some water colours, and the boys still love playing with those Lord of the Rings legos! The real hot commodity is my hammock, which I have hung up inside my house. The kids go crazy playing in that thing!



In my free time, I've done a lot of baking recently, delving more into my yoga, and slowly but surely checking things off my Grenada bucket list! Last weekend I hiked to Grenada's tallest waterfall- Mt. Carmel. It was positively breathtaking as we emerged from the jungle to see all that water crashing down the cliff.



Hard to believe I have just 6 months left here in the Isle of Spice. I'm already preparing for my return to the U.S.- submitting job applications and so forth, but trying to balance that with living completely in the moment while I'm still here. 2018 for me is all about capturing moments and making memories. Well, hope this wasn't too long and newsy for you... I did have two months to catch you up on, after all! February is sure to be a fun-filled month. Can't wait to tell you all about it!

Hugs and Smiles,
Sarah