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June 2013

Letter from the Editor

June has been really cool with the International Duo Festival Dance, the Music fest, the sunny weeks that make you want to relax at the pool at Oasis or simply at the beach, after a hard week of work in your projects. In addition to this, there were also the quiz nights every Wednesday, the dance lessons on Thursdays after work, the great drinks on Friday evenings, the goodbye drinks, concerts and now guess what??? We will have gymnastic classes every Tuesday after work.

Also, we must not forget to mention that during the weekends you are always free to visit some resorts like Reserve de Bandia, Desert of Lompoul, Pink Lake, Djoudj Bird Park or the capital Dakar. What could be better?

Our projects are doing well with our lovely volunteers; we have some very interesting blogs posted permanently by our volunteer in Care, Gretchen McCarthy, and our volunteer in Music and Culture, Ann-Charlotte Pearson, regarding their experiences so far, you might want to have a look at our blog on MyTripBlog. The busiest projects this month are Care, Microfinance, Teaching but also Music and Culture. However the Human Rights office is starting some great work with their new coordinator Madame Faye; we will try to provide you a little more info about what they are busy doing in our next edition.

We welcomed our first group of Two Week Specials 2013. They are two volunteers Rachel Tunis (US) and Pauline Rappe (Belgium). They will work at the street children centre in the morning and in the afternoon, with a professional painter, they are going to repaint a dormitory and a classroom in a Talibé children's house.

To finish, we will present Arame Faye, our new Fina as you probably know Fina our assistant director is on maternity leave, by the way we wish her a very peaceful maternity leave. I will try to share with you a picture of Fina, fingers crossed :)

Alright, Thanks so much for staying in touch with us and for the great feedbacks about our newsletters! Really appreciated.

Have a good read!





Habib and Fina

Volunteer story

Gretchen McCarthy (US)



snack would be served. Downstairs volunteers were preparing baguettes with something like nutella for the talibés. They anxiously waited in rows for the

We would like to invite you to find our Official Facebook Group by searching Projects-Abroad Senegal – The Official Group. Also, if you would like, add us as a friend so that we can be in touch before, during and after your trip to Senegal.

My Facebook name is Habib Projects Abroad. Or if you are a Twitter fan, you can also follow the latest news here, our name is Proj_AbroadSN.

One love from Senegal! :)

As I walked upstairs I could feel their excitement. The boys were running around everywhere looking for pencils and markers. They would color in their design as fast as possible so that they could do another. When they were done they brought them to us because we hang them on the walls in the center. They would show us their pictures and smile waiting for us to smile back and say "c'est jolie." After they used up all the paper "le goute" or the

volunteers to bring up the snack. The moment they saw the food is something I will never forget.



They lead up to it by chanting something in Wolof, and when they finally see it they erupt into cheers. It is obvious that this snack is the highlight of their day. The kids shuffle up a few at a time and receive a bag of bissap and a baguette. Downstairs the girls were being served the same meal. I am so happy that I got to experience this because the joy on the children's faces is amazing. The fact that they are so happy by this snack is incredible. While looking off the roof, I watched the kids sit in the street and enjoy the snack they had probably waited all week for. I cannot wait for this moment next

Friday and the other Fridays to come.

Staff update

Arame Faye is a student at Gaston Berger University. She is completing a Master Degree (5th year) in Foreign Applied Languages, Option Tourism (the

same university profile as Fina). She comes from Dakar and loves music, concerts, reading and movies.



Arame is really looking forward to welcoming you in Saint Louis and to give you a general introduction about your project, the staff, the host families, Senegalese culture, currency, and means of transport... Also, she will show you around town before taking

you to the best restaurant in town for a lovely lunch.



Teaching Update



Herschel Girls' School matriculant spends one month volunteering in Senegal!

After finishing high school, 19-year-old Imogen Macdonald decided to take a gap year, during which she signed up with Projects Abroad to volunteer at their Teaching Project. She wanted to experience a different culture in a French speaking country, so Senegal was the perfect choice for her.

Imogen originally picked the Journalism Project to participate in, but after a few days at the project's office she realised that the Teaching Project would better suit her. All the

necessary things were done for her to be able to fulfil her wish. "The switch from Journalism to Teaching was really great," she said.

Imogen's placement was at Sidy Ndiaye Primary School where she taught basic vocabulary, phrases and some English verbs to children aged six to 10-years-old from Monday to Friday. At the school Imogen was always free to teach the subjects she wanted; that's why she strongly recommends to future volunteers

to get ideas from family and friends before joining this project because it will help with planning the lessons.

Her most rewarding experience has been to see children starting from no knowledge of the English language, to being able to make a sentence at the end of the class. "The kids were very interested in the lessons and I was very happy to see them



progressing in English so much,” she said.

Social life in Saint Louis has been awesome for Imogen. “You are allowed to do many things here in your free time; there is always something to do. I often got together with the other volunteers to have lunch or dinner together and it was really great. During the week you can go to the city or to the market, and on the weekends you can take advantage and visit some resorts like Touba (a very religious city) , The National bird Park (Djoudj) and the desert of Lompoul.”

For her last day at the school, all the kids wanted to pose with her for photos in the courtyard of the school. She will be missed for sure.

Voices of the World club in Senegal!

Very interesting meetings have been noticed in our Voices of the World Club in

Senegal. The Club is essentially formed by students really motivated from different schools in Saint Louis and is open to all the volunteers. The meetings are divided into two parts:



- The first part is dedicated to grammar exercises and online and writing activities. This is to give them enough tools to write effectively.

- The second part is a discussion.

The students discuss politics, news, religions, and consequences of the advancement of the sea; and then afterwards they write articles about the subject they like. The articles that they write are published on the Voices of the World's website at <http://www.voices-of-the-world.org>

The participation of volunteers is really important in the club, because not only does it allow the students to get the chance to exchange with English speaking people and to learn about a different culture. Volunteers help in organising workshops like how to write articles, how to do an interview and how to write a poems.



The meetings are happening every Wednesday afternoon from 5.30 pm to 7pm.

So you are all welcome!

International Festival of Contemporary Dance "Duo Solo Danse" :)



This years was the sixth edition of the festival Duo Solo Dance. It lasted four days and nights of contemporary dances in the streets of St. Louis with performances at the French Institute, in the areas of Sor and Gued Ndar and at Gaston Berger University. There was also film screenings and parties on the boat Bou El Mogdad. The city was vibrating with drum and djembe's rythmes and we attended some great performances from different artistes around the world. Have a look at the Pictures!

Photos of volunteers with their Host Families



Volunteers **Toni Oki** (UK) and **Patrick Creighton** (UK) were having fun with their host little brother and his sister.
Host Family: Mamadou Faye

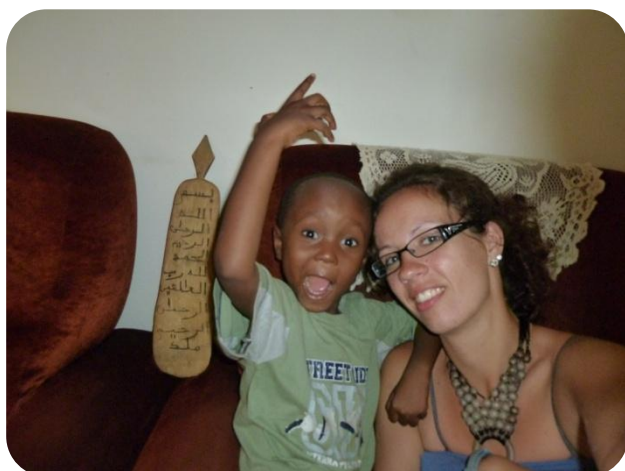


Renee Harleston and Yucca Léonard with their host family at Madame Oumou Ndiaye.





Doughnut time with **Rhianna Mallia** and **Karen Salcedo** at Madame Oumou Ndiaye



Myriam EL Assad is having fun with Ousman :)



Penelope Prod'hom at Aissatou Balde Family



Ally English at Mr Moustapha Diakhate Family



Annemarie Vermunt at Insa Diop's Family



Annemarie Vermunt and Chloe Palmer at Insa Diop's Family



Eveline Starink at Madame Oulimata Toukara's Family

If you have pictures with your host family don't hesitate to send them to me! I will be happy to add it to our photo album of volunteers and host families.



Subscribe to our YouTube channel

You Tube / Projects Abroad Senegal

Have a look at the videos taken in our projects!

Sports Football Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtWkkV5HLs4>

Care Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwIfgrOVsEY>

Music and Culture Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUzWh2eSXmk>

Microfinance Project :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaP4GakDTkk>

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http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=2985



Read our monthly newsletter



<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/senegal/newsletters-from-senegal/>

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Want to contribute in our newsletter?

Each month we will be featuring a photo from Senegal in the newsletter, elected by our Senegal Office Staff. If you are a former volunteer your photos are also welcome. Show off your best shots!!

Send your pictures to: habibdiaw@projects-abroad.org, finasenghor@projects-abroad.org

