

June

This month started with winter traditional festival called Festa Junina. It's a celebrating festival of St. John the Baptist. Brazilian people will celebrate by dressing country style. Girls will wear dress, do braid hair and paint freckles on their cheeks. Boy will wear scott shirt and farmer hat. I went to the first Festa Junina at the school of little boy who is the son of my host mom's friend. She invited me to go together and meet her mom and her sister. There were a lot of local food such as churrasquinho which is grilled meat on a stick and maçã do amor which is red caramel or chocolate covered apple. The sound of music in the festival was so cute to me include the dancing of the festival as well.

I went to watch the movie Mulher Maravilha (Wonder Woman) in the shopping mall with exchange student friends. This second time to watch the movie, my host brother and friend's host brother went together with us, so we all got to meet one another. My host brother and I had ice cream and played racing games before the show time. After we watched the movie, we went to the book store. I bought a Portuguese conversation book. When we arrived home by host dad who picked us up, we told host sister everything. She couldn't go together, because she had a class that day.

I remembered this week was very cold, but my host mom took me to the café to have ice cream. And I remembered that I had to use 3 jackets and 4 blankets to survive in my first winter here. I also put on a beanie and slipper to keep me warm

Host aunt and host grandmother took me to the relative's house. I met little relatives who induced me to play board games, watch movie, dance Just Dance, and play football at the same time. I had a lot of fun. After that, we went shopping at a supermarket. Host grandmother bought me Pão de Mel which is chocolate and honey biscuit.

Italy exchange student girl invited me and all of the exchange students who live in the same city to come to her birthday party. I went there and met a lot of her friends who were really sweet. We had such a good conversation together. I and German exchange student girl, we did a birthday card for her, but unfortunately we both forgot it to take it to her.

I went to live at AFS president's house of my host city for about a week because my host parents went to Chile and my host siblings went to another state. At her house, there were so many orange trees include passion fruit, so I had a chance to saw and picked oranges for the first time in my life. Her golden retriever dog Oliver really liked to eat orange, so I thought it's a very healthy dog. I also got a chance to cook rice porridge for them, because her daughter was sick. They said they liked it.

This week it was like the last week in Brazil of my 3 exchange student friends, so we tried to meet one another as much as we could. German girl, American boy, and I went to Festa Junina of my school at night. We walked, talked, bought some food, and took a selfie together in the festival. Italy girl, she is an AFS exchange student, so all of volunteers AFS host city did a party for her at a pizza restaurant and they invited host family and me to join them. She told about her life experiences here and how lovely of her family is. I didn't understand all of her words, but I cried. I miss them. I have never thought that I have an opportunity to be an exchange student and meet such good friends like this.

July

I had a chance to present about Thailand to my classmates and my Portuguese teacher in the class at the school with Portuguese language, so in the night before the day of presentation, I practiced with my host family. My mom asked me what I would present about Thailand. There were where Thailand is, The King, General things about Thailand such as flag, national anthem, colors of the days, climate, transport, education, culture, food, etc. I actually had a little stress, because this was the first time that I presented alone. My host family, classmates, and teacher told me that everything would be fine. I was very happy when I did it. Everyone clapped hands for me saying that I did very well, they understood what I wanted to tell them and they liked it. When I finished my presentation, the teacher said let took a picture together.

In 2 weeks of school holidays, after I watched volleyball match, my host dad took me to walk at the park which was very near the house. We can walk to get there and get back as well. At the park, there were geese. That day was one of beautiful days. The sunshine made me happy. I also bought a churro to eat when we finished the walking.

An AFS volunteer invited me to go and stay with her at her house for 3 days in city near my host city which was Arroir do Meio. We cooked lunch together on the first day which were mayonnaise potato salad, churrasco, orange juice, etc. They took me to the park and that day was more one of beautiful days in Brazil. We drank Terere that is tea but drink with whatever juice you like. We went to walk around the center and stopped by an ice cream store. I bought an ice cream cone. At first, I thought it would be a small one, but it turned out to be like the biggest ice cream cone that I have ever had.

On day two, I helped her with gardening by changing the soil in flowerpots in the morning. She asked me for writing my daily life in Portuguese. I teached her how to say days of the week in Thai. In the afternoon, we walked to her relatives' house which was a farm. I met her cousins. They took me to see animal around the farm and there were strawberry plot and banana trees, too.

In the night, she took me to dance at aerobic class. It was fun. I felt good because it has been such a long time that I haven't done like this.

On day three, she teached me how to do Tapioca crepe with egg called Crepioca. I liked it so much, because its taste was like sticky rice.

Last week of this month, I had a chance to go to Rio de Janeiro with AFS tour, so I could meet almost all of Thai friends who are exchange students in Brazil. We are 22 Thai students. There were 15 Thai students that went to Rio de Janeiro. I wanted to meet all of us so much. We spent time together for about 5 days. We talked a lot about all the stuff like how we are now and 6 months experiences. We had a chance to meet That ambassador in Brazil. He came to visit us, asked us about how our lives are, told us everything that we wanted to know. He also bought us Thai food for lunch. We felt so honored and so pleased to meet him there.

We went to visit many places around this wonderful city. We laughed a lot together and took care of one another. It was such a great time with good friends at good places. I was so happy that I went there. I wish we all 22 Thai students could meet together again someday. I miss them. Now, Rio de Janeiro is a place that stay in my heart.

About my studies and my Portuguese

Now, I have been living here for 6 months. I think I can talk more with another people like my friends. We went to have lunch and talked in Portuguese. We also went to walk around the center together after they taught me about how to call those animals in Portuguese at the library that I went to look for Portuguese grammar book. And now I have just started tuition in Portuguese and gone to help art teacher in her art class which I could meet a lot of kids, so I hope I can learn more about Portuguese, too.



