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Shannon Riley - SBE Special Ed Teacher

by *Charity Winters*



Shannon Riley has joined the staff at Susan B English for a second year as Seldovia's special education teacher. A position that previously case-managed three schools, Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalek, Shannon's responsibilities this year includes half-time Seldovia and half-time Nanwalek.

Shannon grew up in the small town of Burlington, WI. Ever since she was little, she can remember hoping that one day she would teach in bush Alaska. After teaching for four years in the Burlington area, Shannon and her brother decided to pack up and leave for Alaska. They stuffed their truck full of whatever would fit and took off for the Alaska Highway, driving through as much of the state as they could. They figured seeing it all would be the best way to decide where they would want to settle down. They finally ended up in Homer (Shannon's brother is nicknamed Homer after

A person of high energy, Shannon is never tired of finding ways to get involved with kids on a variety of levels. A certified lifeguard, she has taken time to volunteer at the pool at various time for morning lap swims and open swims. She recently took a job at the Boys and Girls Club to help out with the after school programs as well as teen night and open gym. "I enjoy the company of kids and young adults!" Shannon explains that she wanted to find a way to have a different role with kids other than strictly teacher to student. She also enjoys having more of what she calls "leisure time" with the kids. This year she will also be assisting Tim Winters with the Math-a-thon for the second year in a row.

An avid outdoors-person, Shannon spends a lot of her free time hiking, skiing, walking her dog, and gardening. When she gets a

“Homer Simpson”) and fell in love with the Anchor Point area in particular. Shannon now owns a small home there that she has been renovating for the past two years.

Eventually, Shannon’s brother headed back home to help out with a grandfather who had health problems. Shannon stayed on in Alaska, taking a teaching job in Kiana, a small village in the Arctic Circle. There she enjoyed the cultural aspects of the village and learned how to sew skin, making mukluks and beading. From there she went on to Kodiak Island and taught general education for several years in Akhiok and Old Harbor. Finally she went back to her favorite spot, Anchor Point and bought her home. She worked for a year as a special education aide in the Anchor Point School before transferring to Seldovia.

chance she heads over to her home in Anchor Point where she works on getting it ready for winter and stocking up her garden harvest. It’s hard to see how one person keeps up with everything. But being the busy, outgoing person that she is makes Shannon a great Special Ed. Teacher is for Susan B. English!

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