

St. Paul 2010 Amanda Painter & Diana Painter

Both born and raised in Alaska, we want to know our big beautiful state better-- and we love working with kids!



Amanda: I have always wanted to see more of Alaska. I realized on this trip that I am a

person who enjoys other cultures and being surrounded by a community. **Diana:** As a Spanish teacher, I am always excited to see new cultures and people and try to find my place in new communities.



We attended the science fair, the quarterly school awards, Aleut language and dance class, and practiced with the basketball team. We watched NYO practice, toured on 4-wheelers, and drove to the edges of the island. Family style lunches, game night and dinners of crab, halibut, salmon and caribou made us feel so welcomed by our wonderful teaching partners.

We had a blast!



First, we learned that a smile and a bag of mandarin oranges can go a long way! We both felt a connection to the rural life and enjoyed being involved with the school community. We found that we have so much to learn from each child and family. We learned a great deal about the Pribilofs' history and changing face of the Aleut culture today.

As educators, we have to work hard to reach out to families and better meet the needs of students.

Using the culture and the community around us helps motivate students and helps them apply their learning to their lives. No matter the class size, teaching can be rigorous and fun.

Go Sea Parrots!



For us, the rural experience was an invaluable part of our preservice teacher training. It removed the fear and unknown about working in rural Alaska, gave us a heart for the Native communities in our state, and showed us how to reach out to the resources of the community and get involved. We are stronger teachers for the challenges and experiences we met in beautiful St. Paul.



Thank you to AEIN and our gracious hosts in St. Paul who allowed us the opportunity to learn from and roam their island!

