

*Elizabeth Siemion  
Golden Apple Award  
March 7, 2011*

*Retirement didn't stop Elizabeth Siemion from teaching. She has found rewards far beyond a paycheck that keep her involved with education*

*"Miss Betty," as students call her, was a teacher in Georgia before moving to Cordova for the next 36 years of her teaching career. Following her retirement in 1987, she immediately began volunteering in Cordova. She relocated to the Kenai Peninsula, settling in Kasilof in December 2006. Even before her boxes were all unpacked she visited Tustumena Elementary School and offered to help in the classrooms. Since then she has volunteered for about three to four hours a day, usually four days a week.*

*"Miss Betty's extensive educational background has made her highly sought after by many teachers," said Principal Bob VanDerWege. "She openly shares her vast experience with teachers. She has become a mentor to many."*

*She tutors individual students, reads with them and works with small groups. She is especially passionate about the value of vocabulary and writing, and works diligently with students to improve their skills in a supportive approach that improves confidence, as well.*

*As Mr. VanDerWege says, "She has a patient and caring way with children and always portrays a positive attitude."*

*Not only does Miss Betty happily share her knowledge and experience, she also shares the artifacts she has collected over the years. This adds realism and excitement to many lessons, especially when she brought a vial of gold dust to show a student who was reading a story on treasure hunting.*

*As if Miss Betty's heart of gold and actual gold weren't enough, she also is a gold medal-worthy baker, and often treats the staff to baked goods in the lounge.*

*"Our students and staff truly love and respect Miss Betty for her caring ways and for all the help she has given our school," Mr. VanDerWege said. "We therefore ask that our district recognize this wonderful person for the outstanding things she does for all of us."*

*We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Miss Betty Siemion for sharing her wealth of experience and enriching the Tustumena Elementary School community with her time and many talents.*