



# What's the Good Word?

## A series of occasional discussions with citizens of Lilly the Lash's universe

In this *What's the Good Word?* discussion, we talk with Principal Pamela Davis of the Longfellow Elementary School in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Author Julie Woik was the guest for a recent Author Visit at Longfellow Elementary, where *The Life and Times of Lilly the Lash*® children's book series and supporting learning materials form part of the curriculum.

Principal Davis and her teaching staff were familiar with the *Lilly the Lash* materials and enthusiastically embraced the spirit behind the works as presented live by the author.

**Q:** Why did you start in the education field?

**A:** I entered into the field of education because of my love for children and desire to make a difference in the world.

**Q:** What are the biggest challenges you think teachers have today?

**A:** I think that teachers have a great responsibility to mold the leaders of tomorrow. The expectations from government, administration parents and students increase each year, with very little assistance or compensation.

**Q:** How do you find ways to engage students in the learning process and get them to want to learn independently?

**A:** Every student is different, so it is important to be adaptive and provide instruction to students as individuals (a very tough task that our teachers strive to achieve on a daily basis).

**Q:** What are the tools you like to use to engage students, modify behavior, promote independent learning?

**A:** The materials from Lilly the Lash fall directly in line with PBIS, our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support model that is used throughout the school district. This model focuses on using positive methods of reinforcing school-wide expectations and providing encouragement to those doing what's right, rather than putting all of the emphasis on what they are doing wrong.

**Q:** How do you think the Lilly the Lash materials stand out from the crowd of education/reading/PIP materials available?

**A:** Lilly the Lash integrates beautiful artistic design with a message of positive behavior, strong character and the ability to change from within as part of a high-interest story. Our students love the *Lilly the Lash* stories. Julie's charismatic personality and positive attitude is contagious. After Julie's presentation at our school, I saw a student, who can be very challenging in the classroom, drawing pictures and writing a story about a superhero. He said he was inspired by the speaker to keep writing and that this was going to be the first book in his new series. That is incredibly rewarding.