



# John Sells Middle School

150 W. Bridge Street, Dublin, OH 43017

On November 20, 2018, Bol Aweng, one of the **Lost Boys of Sudan**, came to Sells Middle School to share his story of how he fled the Civil War at the age of six. He stated how he dreamed to build a clinic in his homeland of South Sudan. The clinic became a reality with the help of many school children across Ohio. Now it has ten staff members and vaccinates the children.



This visit would not have been possible without Tom McCauley's efforts and time in making all the arrangements. We thanked the principal, Matthew Sachtleben for the fabulous day with his amazing staff and incredible students. The morning was scheduled so Bol had a lot of personal time to talk with students and to let the students take 'tons' of photos on their cell phones! What a nice way to remember the day.



Bol shared the story of how an older boy tricked him to keep going when they were fleeing the soldiers. He promised Bol candy if he'd walk to the 'next place'. He never got *any* candy after walking 1,500 miles! So this kind student came up and gave Bol a Kit Kat candy bar. Bol was delighted.



It takes creative and dedicated teachers to make learning a meaningful experience.



These girls exemplify how we would describe the Sells' students in one word- SPONTANEOUS! They seemed really shy as they were waiting patiently in line, and then....they showed their true colors!

The social studies teachers laid the groundwork for a great day. They even gave Bol homework. Answer all the questions the students didn't have time to ask! ☺



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## GALLERY WALK

Students enjoyed the Gallery Walk that let them see Bol's original paintings and rock art. Tom arranged for two classrooms to be used for the walk. One boy even bought one of his rocks. Perhaps it's a Christmas gift for his parents? It will always be a constant reminder of Bol's story.



The Gallery Walk gave students an opportunity to talk with Bol and ask more questions. He was so pleased with their thoughtful conversations. What a wonderful connection this day was to all that they have read and studied about refugees and the impact of immigration in Dublin.

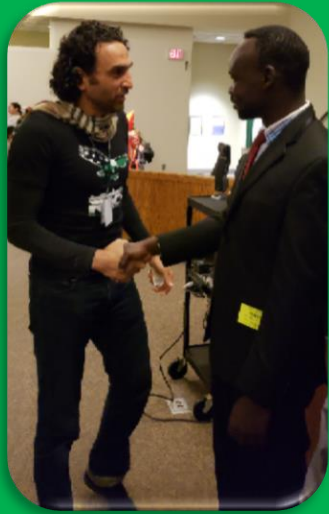


Bol was so pleased to find a student from Syria. He certainly listened to Bol's experiences as a refugee with keen interest.

The young man on the right was so engaged with his conversation with Bol. The other students standing in line behind him were so patient and understanding. They were amazing and will be great leaders in the future.







Reading some of the quotes around the 1919 Building showed that the students had done a lot of thinking about life. The quotes below certainly connected with Bol's presentation.

- One voice can make a song; one life can change the world.
- Stick to it and you'll do it!
- Don't wait for opportunities in life; create them!
- Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway.



Here's one from

## STRENGTH

does not come from winning.  
Your struggles develop your strengths.  
When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.

*- Mahatma Gandhi*



Bol always finds students' questions interesting. Here are a few that the students wrote.

What were the conditions like in the refugee camps?  
What was the longest period of time that you didn't have food?  
What motivated you to keep on walking?  
Was there ever a time where you wanted to quit or stop your journey because you couldn't keep walking?  
Out of your many accomplishments what are you most proud of?

It must be a great job being the principal at Sells with such a great staff and student body.



The sign language teacher did a fabulous job signing Bol's talk.



For more information about the Buckeye Clinic go to: [Buckeyeclinic.org](http://Buckeyeclinic.org) & [info@buckeyeclinic.org](mailto:info@buckeyeclinic.org)

Bol loved the flowers a student gave him.