



Liberty Middle School

Welcomes Bol Aweng: The Lost Boy of Sudan.

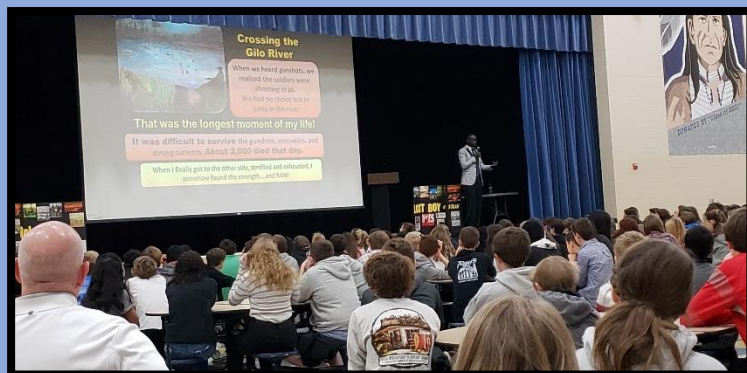
December 13, 2019



Colleen Fitzgerald the 6th grade/ELA teacher did an excellent job handling all the details for the visit. Bol was delighted to finally meet her.



Bol was very grateful to Principal Nichole Crothers and Assistant Principal Charles Moushey for the warm welcome and wonderful day for his visit. Students were engaged and asked interesting and thought-provoking questions.



Bol Aweng spent the day speaking to all the students at Liberty. Over a thousand students listened to his story of how he fled the civil war in Sudan in 1987 when he was six years old. He walked 1,500 miles to refugee camps where he spent 14 years before being relocated to the United States. He shared how he built the Buckeye Clinic in his village in South Sudan in 2011.



Bol spoke to all the students at Liberty in three presentations. Each session was packed.



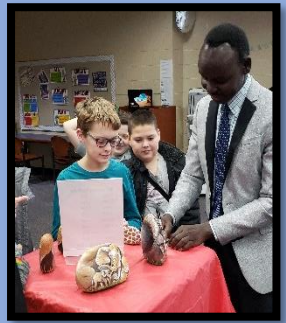
After Bol's last presentation, he was introduced to a student from Ethiopia. Bol discovered that he had gone through her village when the Lost Boys fled to Ethiopia for safety in a refugee camp.

Bol enjoyed looking at students' artwork in the halls and meeting art teacher Rebecca Kardas



Gallery Walk

Bol's artwork was set up in the library. Various groups came in for a time to ask questions and then view his art.



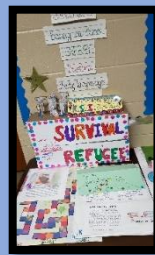
Students formed lines to get Bol's autograph. They saw his business cards on the tables and used them to remember the day. They thought his rock art was amazing and asked questions about how he learned to do his paintings and rock art. The teachers enjoyed getting a chance to see his art too.



Bol had a question and answer time after each presentation. He was delighted with many new questions that he had never been asked before. Here is a sample of some of their questions.

*Were there adults with you when you were fleeing the soldiers? *Did you pick up any weapons on the way to help kill the wild animals? *Did you ever think about just going on alone? *How did you feel about 9/11? *What were your most challenging obstacles on your journey?

On his 1500-mile journey, Bol told how an older boy kept promising him candy if he would walk a certain distance. He never did get the candy, but this 'trick' kept Bol walking. A student asked Bol what happened to the boy who promised him candy. Bol said it was a very sad story. This boy died in the refugee camp. Sadly, Bol helped to bury him. It was a very difficult time for him.



Teachers had done many integrated activities about refugees. The students had a wide variety of books to read about refugees from many time periods and places.



To learn more about Bol's clinic in South Sudan check out these sites:

facebook.com/TheBuckeyeClinic

Buckeyeclinic.org

Bolaweng.com

During lunch Bol enjoyed talking with teachers and telling them more about his story.

