



Genoa Middle School Welcomes Bol Aweng: The Lost Boy of Sudan.

December 17, 2019



Emily Minney, 6th grade social studies teacher, made the arrangements to bring Bol to Genoa. Bol appreciated the efforts that went into making this such a wonderful learning experience for the students.

The 6th grade students had read *A Long Walk to Water* about one of the Lost Boys of Sudan named Salva. When the teachers found that one of the Lost Boys lived in Columbus, they invited Bol to come and share his incredible story about fleeing from his country when he was six years old to make a 1,500-mile journey on foot to refugee camps. Out of the 35,000 boys who made the trip only 16,000 survived. After spending 14 years in refugee camps, Bol was selected to be relocated to the United States. When he returned to Sudan in 2007 and saw the terrible conditions in his village, he began to dream of building a clinic in his village. In 2012 the Buckeye Clinic became a reality. Bol has spoken to thousands of students in the Columbus area. The schools have responded by raising over the years \$170,000 for his clinic.



When Bol arrived, he was greeted in the office by Principal Scott Gaddis. They discovered that Mr. Gaddis' wife was Bol's daughter's teacher in Hilliard.

Bol thanked the administration for inviting him. He was impressed with the administration's interest in his talk. Vice Principal Stephen Smalley came to thank Bol for coming and enjoyed talking with him and Bol's son,



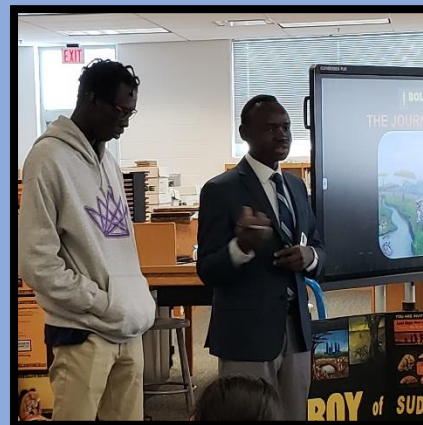
The Buckeye Clinic would like to thank the Westerville Education Foundation for creating the Fund-a-Project Module that gave the school such a unique way to involve the staff, students and parents to contribute to Bol's clinic.

Science teacher Scott Delligatti shared the unique and highly successful fund raising the school was doing. Typically, schools do their fundraising after Bol comes. Bol was shocked when he was told that the school and parents had already raised \$700. Their original goal was \$500. What an impressive example of what a community can do when they join to make a wonderful difference in the world.



Bol brought his six-year old son to join him for his presentation to show how young he was when he was fleeing the civil war in Sudan in 1987.

Bol's cousin from New Zealand also came. He was 2 years old when he was living in a refugee camp and then relocated to New Zealand.



After his presentation Bol always enjoys answering students' questions. Here is a sample:

What were some of the most difficult times on your journey?

What were your first impressions of the United States when you came here?

Have you ever been able to see your parents?

When you were on the plane on 9/11 coming to New York and returned to Amsterdam, did you know what was going on?

What's your favorite food? Do you play video games?

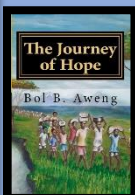
Did you ever meet Salva? (Bol and Salva were in the refugee camp in Ethiopia together.)

What motivated you to keep walking when you were in the desert?

Did you ever come face to face with a lion or elephant?



Students were given the opportunity to view Bol's artwork. His paintings were from his memories of his homeland and help to describe his journey when he was fleeing the civil war.



Bol's Rock Art



To learn more about Bol's clinic in South Sudan check out these sites:
facebook.com/TheBuckeyeClinic
Buckeyeclinic.org
Bolaweng.com

