



Bexley Middle School

March 11, 2019



As Bol walked through the halls of the Bexley Middle School, he was greeted by many students who had heard him speak in previous years. Eight years ago after having her students read about the Lost Boys, Ms. Jax and retired BMS teacher, Natalie Mroz did some research and discovered that one of the Lost Boys lived in Columbus! This was Bol's 8th year sharing his story to her classes. She said Bol's visits are the highlight of her year.

She shares that his story had an impact on her life when she discovered that she was in kindergarten enjoying life when Bol was six years old fleeing the war in his country and struggling to survive without his parents. Together with 35,000 Lost Boys,



Bol and Ms. Jax have developed a close friendship over the years.

The Bexley 7th graders will be doing various fund raisers for the clinic. Over the years they have raised \$46,000!



Bol shared his story with nine social studies classes. Students were engaged and asked interesting questions like:
"Since only 4,000 boys got to come to the US, what happened to the others?"
"What are the scars on your forehead?"
"Why was your country having a war?"

The students will be reading a story about a Lost Boy that Bol met in a refugee camp. The story will be more powerful as a result of Bol's visit and give more purpose in their fundraising efforts for Bol's clinic in South Sudan.



When Reese McClellan was a 2nd grader, she was so touched by Bol's story that she raised \$60 for his clinic. The next year she did lots of jobs: sorting laundry, taking care of dogs and many others. Her detailed record keeping paid off. She raised \$120 that time for the clinic.

Buckeyeclinic.org



The day ended with Bol sharing an art lesson with the students. Using his paintings, Bol shared how he used his experiences in sharing his story through his art. The students had a unique opportunity to discover how an artist uses the role of imagination, observation and memory in creating art.



The art teacher Rachel Howland listened carefully and took notes during Bol's lesson.



One student who saw how Bol's experiences were expressed in his art asked, "Do you think you would have still been an artist if the war had not happened?"

The students will be drawing their own pictures using some of Bol's ideas.



At the age of six, Bol used art to record a personal diary as civil war tore apart his village, separated him from his family, and exposed him to different countries and harsh challenges.

