

Superintendent's Highlight

June 19, 2020

At Plainview-Old Bethpage, we strive to instill into the hearts and minds of our students the importance of being good stewards of our planet and to be multipliers of joy. With that in mind, we are so proud to announce that our Plainview-Old Bethpage well has been drilled in South Sudan! Our well is located at Gong Peer Primary School in Mangol County, Gogrial State, South Sudan. The Village Chief is Longar Mangong Wol. The GPS coordinates of our well are 8.828808 28.575213. To view this location, copy and paste these numbers into a browser and hit enter. Then, click on the map!



Three years ago, Ms. Misha Khan's seventh grade ELA classes at POBMS started off with a goal of reaching \$5,000 to help build a well in South Sudan through the organization Water for South Sudan (WFSS). WFSS creates opportunities for people in remote, rural areas in South Sudan to change their lives. Ms. Khan's students' goal was inspired by Salva Dut, the protagonist of the novel they read in class, *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park, a true story about a refugee and a reality that millions experience every day in Sudan - the struggle to find water. In South Sudan, millions of women and children walk up to eight hours a day to collect water from hand-dug wells where water is often contaminated with parasites and bacteria. The results are sickness, even death. Ms.



Khan and her students are humbled that their goal has turned into a reality and that thousands and thousands of lives in South Sudan will be changed for the better because of the kindness of those at POBMS!



In 2017, during Ms. Khan's first year of teaching, she was encouraged to read *A Long Walk to Water* with her seventh-grade students; and this was the genesis of the fundraising effort. Additionally, our POBMS Equity Club, co-advised by Ms. Alyssa Carroll and Ms. Khan, joined in the effort to support fundraising and heighten awareness about water for South Sudan. The faculty and staff of POBMS donated money, entered raffles, purchased bracelets, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and baked goods to support this life-sustaining cause. Additionally, Ms. Khan's class held an annual Walk for South Sudan event that acted as a visual representation of the importance of obtaining water and the struggle many must go through to acquire it. This is work well done on continuing the goal at Plainview-Old Bethpage - to nurture global citizens. We never forget that we are providing educational opportunities for future world leaders, changers and innovators.