



For Immediate Release:

Rumson School District continues partnership with *Chhange* and welcomes Nathaniel Nyok

Nathaniel Nyok, “Lost Boy of Sudan,” visits Forrestdale working to build tolerance

The Rumson School District received the [2018 Axelrod Family Award](#) earlier this year in recognition of the high quality Holocaust and tolerance studies curriculum that Forrestdale 7th and 8th grade ELA and social studies teachers created in conjunction with programming from the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (*Chhange*) Center at Brookdale Community College. During the 2018-19 school year, proceeds from the award will partially fund the District’s continued partnership with *Chhange*, and the program is expanding to include educational opportunities for Forrestdale students in grades 6, 7 & 8.



Grade 6 students began the year learning about the “Lost Boys of Sudan” in their English Language Arts classes through a study of several excerpts from *Days of Refugee*, by Nathaniel Nyok, paired with discussions about the geography and history of the Sudan in the context of the experiences of the book’s author. As a culminating activity, Nathaniel Nyok shared first-hand experiences during a visit with Forrestdale grade 6 students and staff on October 9th. Students were introduced to this courageous, resilient young man who is now working to develop secondary education in the South Sudan. Mr. Nyok discussed many of his life events, including his experiences as an orphan in a refugee camp for 14 years, the path that brought him to the United States, and his current efforts on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, working on policies in support of tolerance.

The District’s continued partnership with *Chhange* will allow our teachers and students to experience year-long professional development and enrichment opportunities such as Mr. Nyok’s visit, and support continued efforts to embed tolerance in our school culture and our students.

For more information, please contact:

Mrs. Vera Ridoux, Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

vridoux@rumsonschool.org

732-945-3100