

THE LIONS DEN

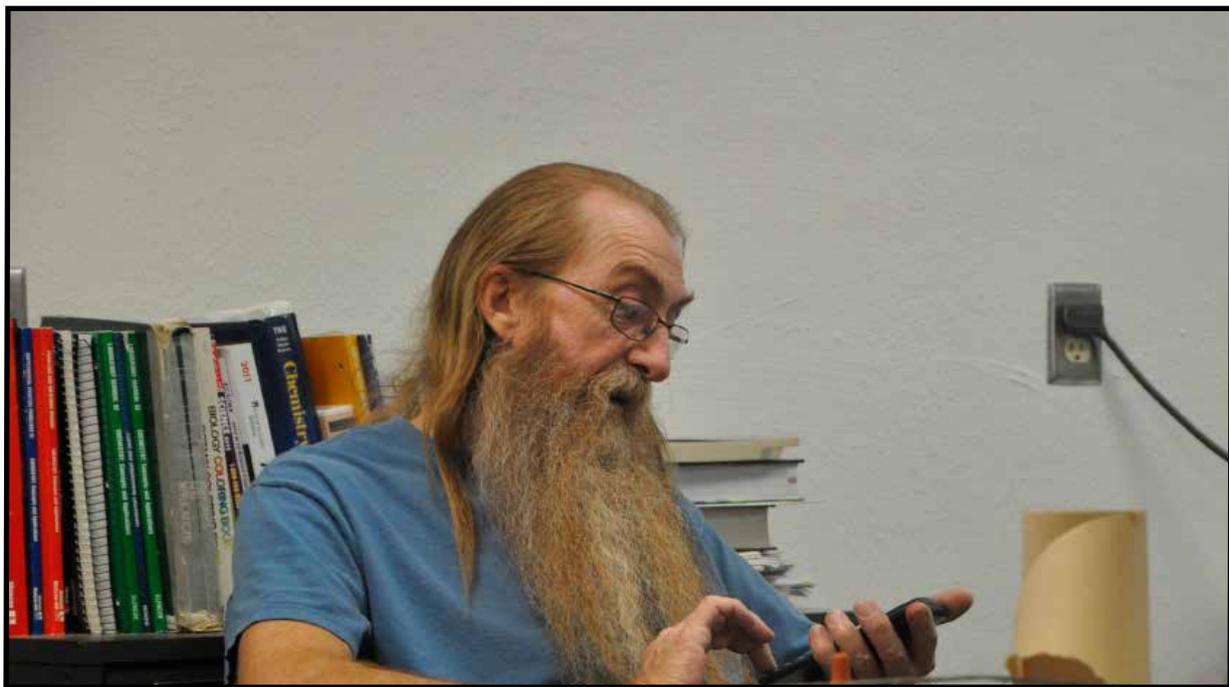
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Gracemont Schools

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CHARLES RICHARDSON

Meet Our New Science Teacher



Charles Richardson is in his first year teaching science at Gracemont Schools. He teaches in both the high school and elementary. After talking with him, this reporter found that he has led a colorful life.

Mr. Richardson's father worked for an oil exploration company which means he moved a lot. There were six of them living in a very small camper. When he turned four his family moved to Africa and lived in the country of Lybia. Mr. Richardson lived in Lybia for three years before moving back to live with his grandmother in Chickasha.

He went to elementary school in Dallas where he broke both of his arms by falling off the slide. Mr. Richardson then moved to Houston, Texas where he finished middle school. After middle school he began his high school career in Namibia in Africa but moved back to Chickasha his sophomore year to finish high school.

Mr. Richardson started college at the University of Texas, where he took three semesters, then went to college in Seattle. After that he attended four years at OU then finished college at OSU. By teaching classes at OSU he received his Bachelors and Master's degree. Later he taught biology at Langston University, then was a teacher/counselor for twelve years at a state facility for troubled kids. Stop by and talk with him. He has some great stories.

Reporter Daniel Neal

Senior Night

February 4th the Gracemont Lady Lions played a suspenseful game against the Verden Lady Tigers for Senior Night. Audie Connally lead with 18 total points as the ladies rose victorious with a score of 48-37. The Lions had a very exciting game against the Tigers. Julian Goombi had a total of 32 Points. The boys game ended in overtime with a win for Gracemont of 76-68.

Conference Games

On February 8, 2014, the Lady Lions played a conference game against Union City. In the hard fought game Audie Connally scored a total of 17 Points. Unfortunately the girls did not come out victorious with an ending score of 27-47.

The Lions played in SWOSU's conference game against the Binger Bobcats. Julian Goombi had a total of 16 points with five out of five free throws for the Night. The final score was Gracemont 41, Binger 75.



Paige Milner stands with her parents during the Senior Night Ceremonies.



Julian Goombi and Jacob Mandujano receive recognition at the Conference Games played at SWOSU.

7th Grade

7th grade class party is coming up. In humanities we are working on duck tape sculptures.

8th Grade

The 8th grade recently gained a new student, Bre Harmon. Let's just say this... she isn't shy!

We're planning to go to the trampoline park in Edmond for our class party! We can already see the fun! We've also been working on our mouse trap cars for the past two weeks and finally set them off Wednesday, the 20th. It's been a great 2014 so far!



Heather Boren and Khye Weathers sport cool aprons for their 4H demonstrations. (R) Kandyce Reynolds and Kimberly Birch wait for the results of their demonstration.

4-H News

Entering the 4-H demonstrations for the fourth grade were Julio Rico-Collins, Hunter Allen, Kandyce Reynolds, Kimmi Birch, and Joshua Narcisse. The 5th graders were Jillian Stinson, Kelby Edge-Howie, Olivia Daugherty, Tyson McCathern, and Nicholas Narcisse. Sixth grade entries were Lennie Bell, Khye Weathers, Heather Boren, and Colby Vasquez, who received a red ribbon. Top five was Khye Weathers, Heather Boren, Kaitlyn Reynolds, Elizabeth Strecker, and Deven Bailey. Red ribbon recipients were Colby Vasquez, Jessica Robertson, and Andrea French.



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Black History Month

The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage, and patriotism.

They came from every section of the country with a lot of the volunteers coming from New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. Each one possessed a strong personal desire to serve the United States of America to the best of his Ability. Those who possessed the physical and mental qualifications were accepted as aviation cadets to be trained initially as single-engine pilots and later to be either twin-engine pilots, navigators, or bombardiers. Most were college graduates or undergraduates. Others were trained to fill additional skilled areas needed in an army air corp flying squadron or ground support units.

The airmen who became the first single-engine or multi-engine pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in Tuskegee, Alabama. The first aviation cadet class began in July, 1941, and completed training nine months later. Thirteen started in the first class and only five completed the Training. One of them, Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., was a West Point Academy graduate and the other four were commissioned Second Lieutenants. All five received Army Air Corps Silver Pilot Wing Training.

The group began overseas combat operations near Naples, Italy in February, 1944 with the 12th Air Force, flying air patrols over Naples Harbor and the Mediterranean Sea. In April, 1944, the 332nd fighter group transferred to the Adriatic Sea side at Remotely Air Strip, near Foggia, Italy and began conducting long range heavy bomber escort mission for the 15th Strategic Air Force. In July, 1944, the 99th Fighter Squadron was transferred to Ramitell and the group became the only four-squadron fighter group performing bomber escort mission in the 15th Air Force. This was significant factor in the effectiveness and success of the group. The rumor that a bomber from the squad was never lost is a myth that started because of very low bomber losses when the Tuskegee Airmen were escorting. No other escort group can claim such low losses.

The 99th Fighter Squadron received two presidential unit citations for outstanding tactical air support and aerial combat in the 12th Air Force joining the 332nd Fighter Group to receive the Presidential Unit Citation for its longest bomber escort mission to Berlin, Germany. They destroyed three German ME-262 jet fighters and damaged five additional jet fighter without losing any of the bombers or any of it own fighter aircraft to enemy Aircraft. The 332nd fighter group also distinguished themselves in June, 1944 when two of its pilots flying P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft discovered a German destroyer in the harbor at Trieste, Italy. One of the pilots, Lieutenant Gynne Pierson of the 302nd Fighter Squadron, using only the aircrafts 50-caliber machine guns strafed the destroyer, causing it to explode and sink. This was another unprecedented aerial gunnery feat of world war II.

The outstanding record of the Tuskegee airmen in World War II was accomplished by men whose names will forever live in hallowed memory. Each one accepted the challenge, proudly displayed their skills and determination.

Reporter Seth Sechrist

Oklahoma Weather

The weather this winter has been crazy cold and we have had a lot of snow and ice. This winter has caused us to miss a few days of school so we well have to make up some of them. We have had at least 10 inches of snow this winter for our part of the State. A lot of people have been hit hard by the snow storms.

On the other extreme we need more rain to get us out of this burn ban we are in. We also hope we are going to have a great summer that's not too hot.

Reporter Tyson Bryant