



NIGHTINGALE NEWS

Principal: Angela Hughes
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Dates to Remember in December and January

Friday, December 16	...Last day of school before Winter Break
Monday, December 19- Monday, January 2	...Winter Break
Tuesday, January 3	...School Reopens after Winter Break

A Message from Ms. Hughes

As we get ready for the winter break, I would like to thank families for your support during the first term of this school year. The Nightingale community has been so welcoming and we are now also settling into some routines and activities that we had not been able to do since the onset of the pandemic. It was great to see so many parents out at the coffee morning last week and we thank you for your support of the Coffee Morning Market!

On behalf of the staff at Nightingale, I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and we will see you all again on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

There are many winter holidays and recognitions in December, including, but not limited to Hanukkah, Christmas, winter solstice, Thithikopowipisim, and Kwanzaa. Happy Holidays to those who celebrate!



REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is sick and unable to attend school, please report your child's absence:

Call 604-713-5159 school code 59#

or

nigattendance@vsb.bc.ca



Report your child's first and last name, division number, and teacher's name. It is important that you do call this number, even if you have sent a message to your child's teacher via e-mail. This will let the office know your child is absent so that we know they are safe at home. Teachers do not necessarily check their e-mail or they may be away themselves and we would not have access to the information. Thank you.

We would like to humbly acknowledge that we are learning, unlearning and relearning on the unceded, un-surrendered, and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm | Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh | Squamish & səliwətaʔ | Tsleil-Waututh Nations. With this acknowledgement comes the commitment to engage in ongoing acts of reconciliation.

PAC Updates

As a reminder, the Rise Up Hawks Direct Drive is in full swing. If you are able, please make a donation to help our school continue to offer our children the resources and extra opportunities they deserve. The 'Rise Up Hawks' campaign is running now through until January 31 with a goal of raising \$8,000 for the school. You can make your gift today at this [link](#).

The next PAC meeting is on January 19th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. We hope you can join us!

Thanks, Graham and Greg
PAC co-chairs.



Staffing Update

As some of you may know, Ms. Lockey will be taking a leave of absence from January to June. She is off on a big adventure touring the United States. We hope she has a wonderful time! In the new year, Division 10 will be welcoming a new teacher, Ms. Emma Crimp, to the classroom.

In other staffing news, we want to wish one of our supervision aides all the best. Ms. Hitomi Lee will be moving on to another school in January. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Rashitha Shetty to Nightingale. She will be starting here as a permanent supervision aide on January 3.

Kindergarten Registration 2023-2024

Kindergarten priority registration ends on January 31. We continue to accept applications until this date. If you apply after January 31 your application would not be included in the draw if we have more applicants than kindergarten spaces. Please let any of your neighbours know that they may apply, if their child was born in 2018. The registration process will have two steps:

- ♦ **Step 1:** Complete the online registration at vsbapplynow.vsb.bc.ca—print out the completed registration form
 - ♦ **Step 2:** Phone the school to make an appointment to bring in your documents (604-713-5290). At the time of your appointment, bring the completed registration form along with the required documents to your catchment school.
- Thank you.

Supporting documents needed:

Proof of residence in Vancouver
Child's birth certificate
Immigration documentation (if applicable)
Immunization records
Court orders/documents (if applicable)



NOTE: The registration process is not complete until you have completed both steps in the process. Priority registration for in-catchment students ends on January 31st. If we have more applications for kindergarten than we have available spaces, a draw will be held. If your child is placed on a waitlist, the district will place you in a nearby school until a space might become available at Nightingale Elementary.



At Nightingale we love our school!

Family Affordability Plan

As you are aware, the government announced that they were distributing funds to school districts to help support families during these times of high costs of living. The school developed a plan after consulting with staff and parents. Over the past two weeks we have distributed gift cards to families that reached out. We were also fortunate to have other grocery gift cards donated by C.L.I.C.K (Contributing to Lives of Inner City Kids). These were distributed at the same time as the family affordability gift cards.

We do still have funds available to help families. Please reach out to the office if you think it would be helpful to receive a gift card for groceries and/or clothing for your child and this can be arranged for some time in the new year.

Some of the funds are also available to support all families, in enriching the lives of children in the school by booking whole-school cultural events, performances, or presentations. In the new year, staff will be looking to book a couple of these events. Remaining money out of this fund will be put towards reducing field trip costs for all families.



Canadian Music Class Challenge

A big thank you goes out to Mr. Bonnell for entering the students in the Canadian Music Class Challenge again this year. The children really enjoyed practicing and are excited to see the video of their submissions. Click the links to see their performances:

[Somehow, Someway](#)

[Little Spruce](#)



At Nightingale we love our school!

Diversity Calendar

Listed below are some of the observances, holidays, celebrations and notable dates in the remainder of December and January. *I extend my apologies if I missed an observance that your family recognizes, please do let us know!* This addition to the newsletter is *intended to be inclusive* and we welcome any and all additions. If you would like your family observances or celebrations to be acknowledged, please e-mail [Angela Hughes](#) and they can be added to the newsletters.

December 18—[Hannukah / Chanukah](#) begins at sundown and ends the evening of December 26

December 21—[Winter Solstice](#)

December 25—[Christmas Day](#) (Christian)

December 26—[Kwanzaa](#) (African American/Canadian) and [Boxing Day](#) (Canada)

December 31—[New Year's Eve](#) (Canada) and [Omisoka](#) (Japan)

January 1—New Year's Day (many western countries) and

[Shogatsu / Gantan-sai](#) (Japan)

January 6—[Bodhi Day](#) (Buddhist)

January 22—[Lunar New Year](#) (many countries)

Visit the [Nightingale website](#) for other

school and VSB news.

Please note that all VSB school websites are not going to be updated until mid-January due to a change in website software.



Nightingale Student Council

We would like to introduce you to this term's Nightingale Student Council (NSC). The Student Council takes leadership in the school community by representing their classmates. They take their ideas and work collaboratively to bring spirit and make a difference in our school community. They always welcome your ideas, so kindly let them know! Voices from your Student Council as to why they joined and how they will make a difference in our school:

Kaedyne in Grade 7 in Mr. Hartwick's class: *"I care about the school community. I want to have a safe school and a positive influence on the students. I want to be a good role model for younger students where we are all kind and respectful."*

Naomi in Grade 7 in Mr. Harwick's class: *"I wanted to act as a good role model to younger students and help them understand that I was a kid once too and we're just here to help. I have helped lots of kids with problem solving and in my opinion, kindness is the thing we need more of in this world."*

Eli in Grade 6 in Ms. Tufts class: *"I can contribute great ideas for school theme days. I think I can make a difference by helping with school-wide assemblies."*

Isla in Grade 6 in Ms. Tufts class: *"I love organizing things for the school. I think that I will make a difference in the school by raising school spirit."*

Adrienne in Grade 5 in Ms. Wong's class: *"I wanted to help out my school with announcements and setting up important events. I will make a difference with my organizational skills, and I have a pretty good attitude towards the school."*

XL in Grade 5 in Ms. Wong's class: *"I wanted to take part in organizing school events. I will make a difference by telling my friends and peers about events and spirit days."*

Yara in Grade 5 in Mr. Yuen's class: *"I love helping and doing things to support the school. I will make a difference by trying to help, as much as I can. Also, by working with other people in Student Council."*

Felix in Grade 5 in Mr. Yuen's class: *"I really wanted to help the school community. I think that I will make a difference by having more students' opinions and ideas."*



Thank you student council!

Also, thank you to Ms. Wong and Ms. Stanke who sponsor the student council.



At Nightingale we love our school!

Parent Crossing Guards

I would like to do one last call out for parent crossing guard volunteers. If you are able to consistently volunteer some time to help out with this safety initiative, please contact Paul at pauljslakov@gmail.com.



We are hoping to start the training with the VPD early in January. While we don't yet have enough volunteers for daily crossing guards, we are still going ahead on a part-time basis. The more parent volunteers we have, the more patrols we can accommodate. Thank you!

Education Assistant Program Information

You may be aware that the Vancouver School District partners with the Burnaby School District to offer a 6-month Education Assistant program. Details for the next Education Assistant cohort beginning in January can be found here:

[Burnaby Education Assistant Program Information](#)

The program is still accepting applications for the cohort that starts in January, 2023. This 6-month program includes two practicums. If any parent or community members are interested, please click on the above link for further details.



School Closure Due to Snow

On very snowy days, by 7:00 am, the VSB will post information about snow closure on its website at www.vsb.bc.ca and will inform local media stations, including:

CKNW (980 AM), CIVB(1470 AM)
CBC (690 AM, 105.7 FM)

CFHG (96.1 FM), CKWX (1130 AM)

BCTV/Global (Cable channel 11)
CITY TV (Cable channel 13)



Snow Clearing on and Around School Grounds

As you are aware, we had quite a snowfall in late November that has only just melted on our school grounds. I wanted to pass along information about snow clearing on and around the school grounds. The Vancouver School Board has a grounds crew that clear sidewalks around the school and parking lots for those schools that have them. We do not have one grounds crew dedicated to each site and so the sidewalks are done as soon as is possible. In early November, priority shoveling and salting on the grounds is determined. Nightingale has one building engineer who is responsible for shoveling and salting walkways in the following priority:

- Accessibility (for wheelchairs, etc)
- Stairways and walkways to the main entrance
- Other walkways and entrances as prioritized in consultation with the principal



Once the shoveling is finished, then we apply the salt. Schools are not provided with salt to salt the whole grounds (play areas) , nor are building engineers expected to shovel the whole grounds. If there are dangerous areas that pop up with freezing snow, we can close those areas off to student use as necessary. Please note that, after a heavy snowfall, the priority snow clearing areas that we ask you to use at Nightingale are the Main stairway and entrance on Guelph, the entrance to the before/after school care, and the two entrances off 12th avenue.

Thank you!

At Nightingale we love our school!

Snowy Day at Nightingale



Winter Stations

On December 12, the primary classes spent a fun day visiting one another's classrooms to do a variety of winter activities. A fun day was had by all!



PAC Coffee Morning



A special "Thank you" to the organizing group and volunteers!



Nightingale Art



Silhouettes by Division 11 Kindergarten

Nightingale Art



Zecit

Written by Sam

I am called Zecit which means small blue one. I live in the snowy mountains of Greenland. I am an owl. I have eleven brothers and my parents mated for life. My mom laid twelve eggs and I was one of those twelve. We are lucky that we all survived. I can camouflage on the branches of berry bushes. Unlike humans, I sleep during the day and am up at night. I cough up owl pellets after a meal. I am sometimes cold. My diet is mice and spiders. I have a little curve on my beak. It helps me tear the meat off my prey. I can turn my head almost all the way around. It is winter and I'm scared because I don't want to migrate. But food is scarce. I may have to fly south with my family.

Owl Stories

and Art

By Division 5

Owl Stories and Art



Stella

Written by Leyla

I am Stella. I live in a very healthy, happy forest. But there is one problem. The beavers are chopping down a lot of the trees. Owls need homes. The more the beavers cut down, the more the impact is on our homes.

Owls have huge eyes. We can see way better than most birds and it helps us catch our prey. Our talons are also very important. We plunge down and snatch our prey. Owls have big ears. One is higher than the other. It helps us hear well. We owls are a bird of prey. That doesn't mean we get eaten. It means we eat other animals like rodents and many more. Owls migrate. It helps some owls keep warm or have food. Owls turn their heads to see all around.

Let's get back to our diet. I eat shrew, mice, insects and many more creatures. Owls eat their prey and they cough up a ball with bones and feathers. That is called owl pellets.

One night when I was hunting, I caught the most delicious prey ever. But I felt a funny feeling. I felt sad that this animal had a life too. But I know that I must eat to survive.

Now my story is coming to an end. Bye! Byel



Ollie Finn

Written by Jordan

I am Ollie Finn. I live in a polluted forest. It is hard to eat here. I swoop down to hunt for spiders, shrews and skunks. I have two stomachs and I spit out leftovers that I do not digest into a pellet. I do not make my own nests. I steal my nest from a bird. I hoot for other owls of my kind because I am lonely. I am nocturnal. I am the opposite of humans. I can turn my head really far but not all the way around. I have a curved beak to eat my prey. I am a bird of prey which means I hunt for food like shrews to eat. I have many adventures. Here is one of them: I explore near my home to find a new place to live without so much pollution. Here is what I saw on the way: I saw skunks, more owls, a mouse, two squirrels and many birds. So I dived down and tried to eat them but I kept missing because I was too slow. So I just ate spiders. But I was still angry. The next day I was feeling energized but hungry so I looked for skunks and when I saw one. I raced down and bit the skunk's tail and body. Then I flew back up with the skunk in my talons. This was my first skunk!



Hedwig

Written by Violet

Inspired by the Harry Potter stories

I am Hedwig, the snowy owl. I swoop around the grounds of Hogwarts.

My talons help me catch mice and insects. Some of my feathers muffle sounds so I can fly quietly. My super seeing is great for catching my prey in the dark. In a hollow tree, where I was cozily napping, a crashing sound woke me. Terrified, I flew out to see what had caused the sound.

It was a big machine . . . A path of fallen trees laid in its wake. My once beautiful forest was gone except for one single tree. When I thought all hope was lost, a boy with night black hair and a lightning shaped scar upon his forehead with a shovel and a seed in his hand appeared. He dug. Finally, when the seed was planted in a swoosh of leaves, he was gone and my forest was back. I finally had a home again.



Domus

Written by Asher

The first thing I saw when I popped out of my egg was my twin poking his head out at me. I could make out his talons under his countless feathers, his tiny ear tufts perched on his little head. But at three weeks old, an eagle got him when he was out stalking an ant. But that was two years ago and the past is the past, even though I still mourn his death and it saddens me when I think of him. But I am ready to move on. I am called Domus, the Latin word for house. I live in a rabbit burrow. I ate the rabbit who lived there and how I use it as a home. In one corner there is my growing collection of owl pellets. In the other, is a pile of feces. Yesterday when I went to see my parents, I discovered that they had passed away. It wasn't surprising as food is growing scarce in their territory. It's hard to find food in mine too. One year ago I ate rabbits, rodents and birds. But now I eat insects and spiders and am lucky sometimes to get a nice juicy frog. Moving on, I will have to expand my hunting territory and I don't like the idea of it. Owls, like me, are birds of prey meaning we hunt live animals.

I did it. I expanded my territory. This morning I took my parent's territory as my own. Now I hunt over an area of twenty-seven acres and can now eat frogs whenever I want as there is a pond in my new territory. Yesterday, I swooped down on a lemming burrow but only caught one. I changed the direction of my big toes to pick it up. Then I carried it home where I ate it. Owls like me have two families. I am in the heart shaped family meaning I have a heart shaped face. Feathers can be useful too. I use them for: keeping dry, muffling sounds and keeping warm. Please note: I am nocturnal meaning I am awake at night so this is happening on my time. The problem is that hunting has not really improved so I might have to migrate soon.

Owl Stories and Art



Votaz

Written by Matei

I am a blue footed owl. I live in the snowy tundra with my twin. I usually hunt for bugs but when I'm a grown-up owl, I will hunt for lemmings, moles and even robins! My twin's name is Link Max Potter. I am called Votaz. We swoop down at midnight to hunt for bugs. I am as big as the palm of a hand but when I grow up, I will be as big as a garbage can!!!

When I get into a fight with another owl, me and Link Max Potter will battle the owl together. In the spring, we turn green but in the fall and winter, we turn red and white and cannot be found! We do not make nests. We steal nests and sometimes steal food so we don't have to freeze half to death.

While we grow, our feathers will fall out and be replaced by adult feathers. Some of these feathers help us stay quiet as we sneak up on our prey. We have two stomachs. We get rid of all the gross stuff and puke it up making owl pellets.

We do not fly much but our mother can fly 58 acres from home. I will fly that long when I am an adult. Last week me and Link Max Potter flew to the edge of the forest and back. We love to practice our skills. As we flew, we saw a village and noticed a family of mice on a farm. We plan to go back and hunt them.

Lily Sy Campbell

Written by Madeline

Hi I am Lily Sy Campbell. I live in a green pine forest but far away there is gray that spreads everywhere. It is coming to us. We have heard that the gray was caused by fires. We hope the fires will go away before they reach us. I live with my parents. Our food is almost scarce so my parents have to go get food from our hunting territory. We eat live animals like rats and shrews. We tried to catch a rabbit but we could not. My parents are almost twenty. I don't want them to die. I forgot to tell you we live to almost twenty years, then die. When we go hunting, our talons change directions. Our bodies have ear tufts and large eyes. We will have to migrate if food keeps being scarce. We steal nests. We stole an eagle's nest. It was the perfect nest for us. Yesterday, we chased rabbits but the owls from the land of the gray caught them first. We are often trying to catch the same prey. These owls often catch it first.



Silver Songbird

Written by Gayathri

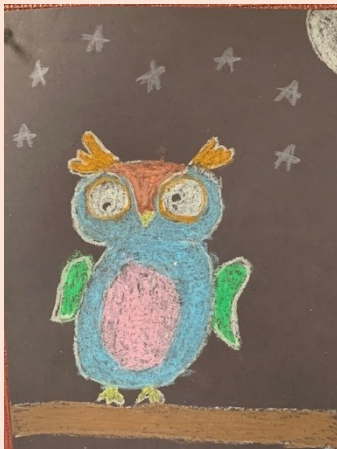
My name is Silver Songbird. I am a snowy owl. I live in a cave in the mountains in northern B.C. I usually hunt for shrews and other rodents. I sometimes try to catch a skunk. I am nocturnal so I am the complete opposite of humans. I sleep during the day and hunt in the night. When I hunt, I use my talons and super senses to swoop down after my prey. I have short feathers to keep me warm. I chirp and hoot if there is danger. One night when I was going out to hunt with my owlets, I suddenly heard a sound. I quickly caught a rat and chirped to my owlet. Then me and my owlets went back to our cave in the mountain. After we ate the rat, we coughed up owl pellets.



Winnie the Hoot

Written by Kara

I am Winnie the Hoot. I live in a beautiful, green healthy forest on the East Coast. I hunt many different rodents like shrews and mice. I also eat small birds. I'm just a teeny, tiny great horned owl but will grow to be a massive, giant great horned owl. Owls can live up to 20 years in the wild. I hope I will live that long. When I just hatched, I heard my parents making owl sounds like hoots, screeches, hisses and many more too. Now, I have also learned to make those sounds. Owls don't just have nice sounds, they also have great looking feathers. These feathers can blend into trees easily and keep owls very warm. Light feathers help us fly as quiet as a mouse can scurry across a floor of an old farmhouse. Us owls have unique senses and lots of other interesting talents. Owls are predators. That means we hunt for smaller animals. Actually, almost all raptors are predators too. We have sharp talons to clutch onto fish or rodents and a sharp beak to rip up our prey. We swallow our prey whole. That means we eventually cough up the bones, skulls and feathers of our prey. The stuff we cough up builds into this big clump called an owl pellet. I'm Winnie the Owl and if you can do these things, you are probably an owl too!



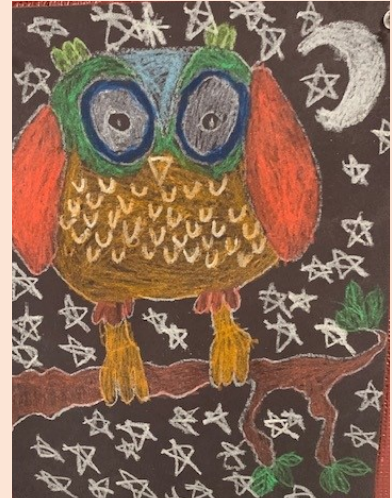
Nightingale Art



Elly Emerald Owl the 1st

Written by Emma

I am Elly Emerald Owl the 1st. I live in a bright rainforest. Sometimes my daddy brings back frogs and sometimes he only brings back two spiders: one for me and one for my twin Penny. My daddy once said that he uses his razor-sharp talons to get the frogs and spiders. Daddy goes out hunting at night. He says we are nocturnal. My daddy is ten and he should live for another ten years. My, my daddy, my mommy and my twin sister all swallow our prey whole. Mommy said I am an owlet, a baby owl. Mommy and Daddy stole their nest from a different bird. Mommy and Daddy are teaching me and Penny to fly. But we have to grow stronger to hunt completely by ourselves. Now our parents still help us. We are birds of prey. I found no food. I was hunting frogs for the last three hours. I must migrate to a new rain forest where there is more food. My forest is losing a lot of habitats because trees are being cut down. I might not love the new place. I am very scared. I hope Penny will come with me.



Joey Owl

Written by Jaden

I'm Joey Owl. I live in a rain forest in B.C. It is the winter time and food is getting scarce. But I hear a mouse under the snow. My talons are perfect hunting tools so I can dive and extend my legs to swoop down and catch my prey. One morning while I was sleeping I heard a crashing noise that woke me up. I was nervous that the rainforest was dying and I would have to migrate so I checked it out. Suddenly, a giant crane smacked a tree down and it fell to the ground with a thud. I hope this isn't a sign that I have to leave. The next morning, I saw the crane again and I decided that it was time for me to leave. That day I got ready to leave. Out of nowhere, I heard a loud cracking sound like splintering wood. I looked behind me to see what was going on and I saw a tree bolddering towards me. I tried to dodge it but it hit one of my wings and I fell to the ground. Once I woke up, I was in a van that was driving very fast. Soon the engine made me fall asleep. Shortly after, I woke up in a hospital bed with a cast. I tried to fly but I couldn't with the cast on so I tried to peek at it but the humans that captured me tried to stop me so I wouldn't hurt myself even more. I was covered in a warm blanket and someone was walking me to a small enclosure where I could heal. The next morning, they opened the door and gave me a bowl of dead rats. I gobbled them since I was very hungry. That evening, I was feeling better and I heard that I might be released. In the afternoon, they took me out for a test fly and took off my cast and I tried to fly but I still couldn't. The next morning, I was full of energy and wing was feeling better so I went on another test fly and I flew so high that all I saw was small dots below. And I lived happily ever after...

Mr. Tiny Beak

Written by Marcus

I am Mr. Tiny Beak. I live in a dry pine forest near the ocean. I was born in the city with my brother but when he was hatching, an eagle swooped down and ate my brother in front of me. Owls migrate when food is scarce so they can find more food. I am a bird of prey. I hunt for moles, shrews and rabbits. Now I have to hunt for small insects or frogs because the forest is so dry. I am worried I may perish soon because I might starve to death.

I can dive down and catch my prey. I use my sharp talons. Every day I find less food because there are wildfires coming. I might have to migrate for the first time. I feel very hungry. I take all the insects from a bird's nest but today there was nothing I could eat. I felt hungry all day. I can claim my hunting grounds by making sounds like chirping, whistling and hissing. When I was learning how to catch my prey, my wings were quiet. That's when my Dad told me that owls fly quietly.

Life is getting more and more difficult. My choices are now to expand my territory or migrate to a place with more food. I hope that wherever I go, there will be more food.



Big Boy Blue

Written by Aiden

I am Big Boy Blue. I live in a forest and my diet is rats and spiders. I hunt my prey at night. I am a bird of prey. I have super senses: hearing and sight. I live in a pine forest in Canada. I stole a bird's nest. I had to fight the bird but I won. Now, I am going to mate and have owlets. I hope I will have two healthy owlets. My job is to get food to feed them.

Owl Stories and Art



Mickey

Written by Gabe

My name is Mickey. I live in a hole in a tree. I have brown ears, round eyes and blue wings.

I caught a fish and I ate it. I also eat rats.

One day an eagle almost ate me. I fought back.



Owlvia

Written by Ruby

My name is Owlvia. I live in a large oak forest. I am a great horned owl. I used to hunt bugs but now I hunt lemmings, small birds and skunks. When I am angry, I snap my beak and clap my wings. But I have one problem. Because my territory is small and has so much food, other owls are now trying to get all my food. Not even me or my best friend can stop them. Most of the owls come on a full moon because the light is better. The owls that come here often cough up owl pellets and they don't even pick them up. I know that they are coming because I can't move my eyes but I can turn my head nearly all the way around when I hear their sounds.

Being an owl is great because we sleep in the day and are awake at night so no humans can kill us. Sometimes I wish I lived in Antarctica because no other owls live there so no owls could steal my food. We are birds of prey so hunting is really important to me. I am very protective of my territory. I bang other owls in the back. It looks like we are playing but I am only it.

Link Max Potter

Written by Max

I am Link Max Potter. I live in a snowy tundra with my twin Jax. Me and Jax are owlets. Our diet is shrew, moles and mice. My talons have toes in the back. My ancestors have lived in this 3 km territory for centuries. My grandparents lived for 20 years. Me and Jax were starving last night. Our territory is expanding but our parents came back with two moles and Jax hooted and chirped for joy.

The next day we started to migrate. Food is getting more scarce than ever. It was hard for me and Jax because we're small. When we finally got to southern B.C., we found plenty of food. We decided to build a nest and stay in the forest near Harrison Lake. We will stay here and find a mate and have owlets.



Hooter

Written by Mabel

My name is Hooter. I'm a nice, friendly owl. I used to eat small birds but now I eat full grown rabbits. I have sharp talons that I use to swoop down and catch my prey. My mom gave me eight brothers and sisters. Owls can have up to twelve eggs at a time. My dad hunted for me and my mom. We are awake at night and sleep at the day. I got a bad injury on my wing. My feathers cover it. When I got it, I screeched and hissed at the coyote who gave it to me. My mom told me that my wing will heal if I rest and eat lots of rabbit. I want to go to Antarctica one day where no other owl has ever been. I consider myself to be adventurous. I would love to see those strange penguins who cannot fly!

Owl Stories and Art



Twig

Written by Wyatt

My name is Twig, the owl. I was named for my long skinny legs. I live in an abandoned barn. In the winter, not many rodents came by so I go into the barn and eat bugs. In the spring, my territories are expanding. Winter has passed by days ago. I go to the river. I caught two fish with my curved beak but I do not like fish as much. I just saw a rat go into the barn and with my super senses, I follow the rat and when I get into the barn, I see a family of rats. I had a giant feast. It was so tasty. The next day I spat out owl pellets full of bones and fur.

My plan is to now hunt for rabbits. The last time I tried, the rabbit hid in his burrow before I could grab it with my talons. This time I hope I can corner a rabbit and grab him and eat him for dinner.



Frosty

Written by Mae

My name is Frosty because of my blue body. But you can call me Frost. I am so excited because it's my first flying lesson. I fall. I am scared. I hoot and hoot but no one hears me. I have short wings that keep me warm and muffle sound. I see a rat. I pounce. It slips between my talons so I catch a bug. I miss my territory. I decide to go on a mission to find my family. I have 2 sisters and 1 brother. I am a boy. I remember my family's heart shaped faces. We are barn owl owlets. I am a bird of prey and there are not many snacks in this part of the forest and I am just a baby. I hear a noise and I jump out of fright. It was just a bug or was it? I turn around and see a fox. I can't fly so I hop. I am so scared. The fox is fast and I am slow. I hop into a rabbit hole. The fox can't get in. I start poking at the floor for grubs. It is nighttime. I have eyes which make me see in the dark. I try to teach myself to fly. I hop from a bush. I fall with a thump but I don't give up. I try again and again and then . . . I fly!!! I decide to find a nest for the night. I wake up and feel a hot breath on me. I race up and spot my nest. I hop into it and I am home. I see my mom and my siblings. My mom gives me a worm. I feel safe now.



Jake

Written by Everett

I am Jake and I live in a pine forest. I hunt at night because I am nocturnal. I also hunt with my super senses. I can hear all around me. My diet is rabbits and birds. Let me tell you about one of my hunts. So I was chasing a bird but the bird kept swerving behind the trees. I couldn't catch it. It was too fast for me. I eventually gave up. I went to find some beetles then I went to sleep. The next day it was raining. I was so happy because it hasn't rained in months and the forest where I live is very dry. This rain will make things wet and the forest animals will have more to drink. This means more healthy prey that I can hunt.