

Garden City Public Schools
56 Cathedral Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530

Coordinator of Public Information
Catherine Knight, Ed. D.
516 478-1079

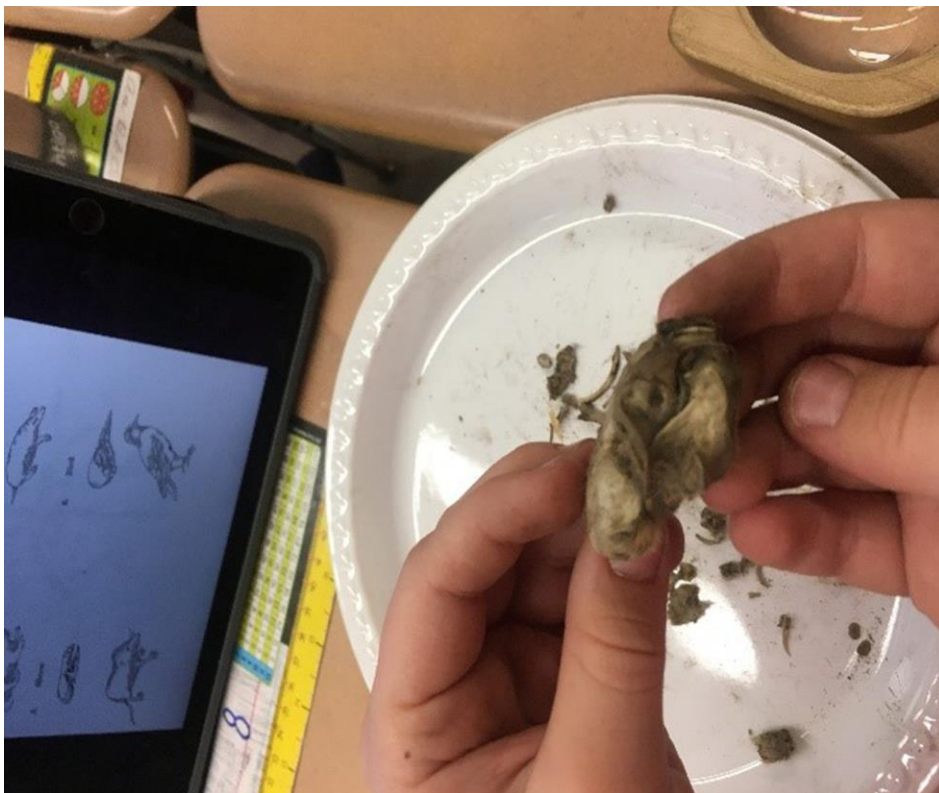
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For Immediate Release:

Unraveling Owl Pellets in Stratford's Science Research Lab

By Lori Nicolini, teacher

Fourth grade students at Stratford Avenue School are dissecting owl pellets! Owl pellets are the regurgitated remains of an animal's dinner, including the bones of the animal eaten. (Rest assured, the pellets are sanitized!) Students pick their way through the ball of fur and carefully retrieve each bone. Bones are cleaned, sorted, identified, and even reassembled to make the complete skeleton. By examining an owl pellet, students can learn much more about what owls and other birds of prey eat. This lab is a fun and memorable way to investigate food chains. Even the most squeamish of students fall in love with this lab!

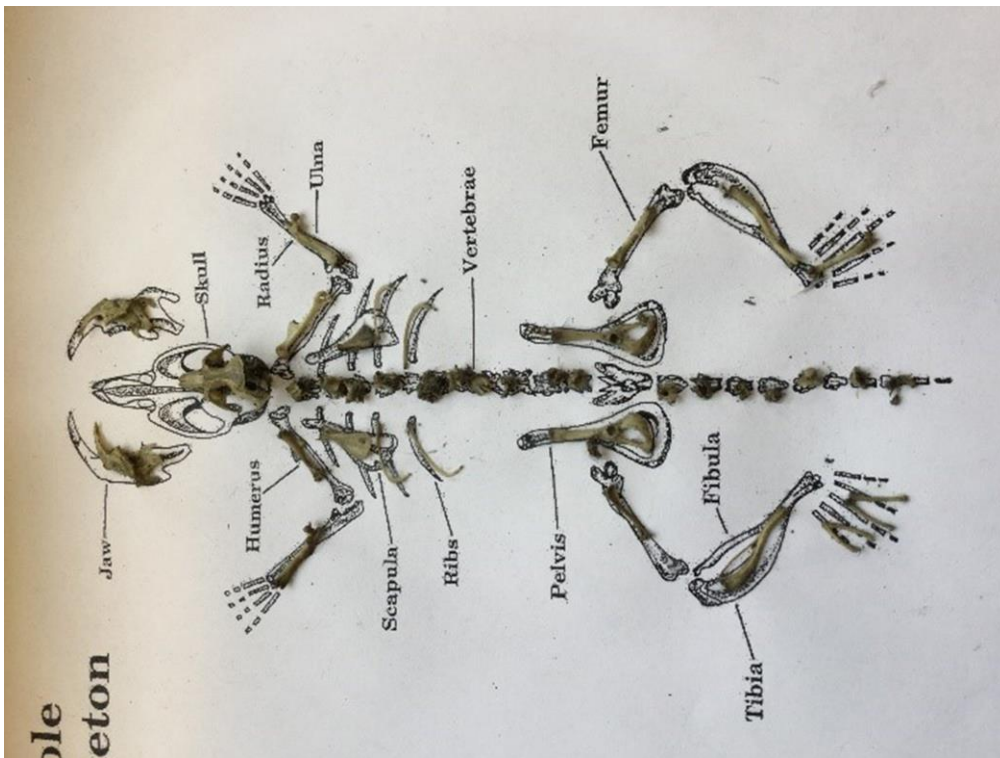


Caption for Photo 2:

Stratford fourth graders teased apart owl pellets during a recent science research lab.



Caption for Photo 1:
The undigested bones of the owl's meal.



Caption for Photo 3:
Students assembled the bones on a diagram of a mole skeleton.

