Website Redesign Summary

schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/harbordci

The website I have decided to redesign is my high school's website: schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/harbordci

Layout

I chose to use a similar layout to that of the basic layout in week 3s lab. However, I changed it so that the navigation bar has been moved underneath the header and is horizontal. My wrapper would be used to apply a background to the page as well as center the General Info(Main Content) on the “home” page. My footer is at the very bottom of the page and is not wrapped within the wrapper.

Problems with existing layout

The original layout seems very squished together, by moving the navigation to the top it allows for a less cramped content. The navigation in the current website is at a very odd place. It is on the left side and doesn't really belong there, it is not symmetrical with the rest of the page.

How color theory applies

The original website used complementary blue and orange, this works because the logo of the school and the main theme of the school revolves around orange. However, they did not use enough and to me it does not look aesthetically pleasing.

On my redesign, I have taken these colors and applied them to the navigation bar, the header, footer, background and main content on the pages. This really gives a nice contrast and theme to the website that fits well with the logo.

Design principles (C.R.A.P)

Contrast: I expanded on the complementary colors of orange and blue using them to outline important or more significant areas. For example, on the redesign you can see the on the navigation, the “staff log in” is in orange compared to the rest of the nav bar that is blue. This makes it easy for people to spot one of the most important things of the website. Headings have a blue background and content has an orange background. The main content is also in orange because it contrasts nicely with the blue lockers from the background, which also point towards the content making it easier for the reader to focus.

Repetition: I used a lot of repetition, this is easy to see by looking at my colors and shapes. I stuck to very rectangular boxes to put my content in. For example, my main content is a big rectangle outlined in black and so is my navigation. My headings are put inside rectangles outlined in black as well. For the color, I repeated a lot of the orange for the actual content and used blue as a highlight. When you initially load up the page, your eyes will automatically look at the blue rectangles. This is good because my navigation and titles are highlighted in blue and these are the more important places to initially view.

Alignment: Having my nav bar at the top has allowed me to properly align my main content to the center of the page. My content is aligned on a vertical edge however, I have centered my sub headings so that they are easily read and allow me to organise the information neatly.

Proximity: Everything that is part of the same content is grouped together. For example, my “general info” heading for the main content is put right on top and part of the actual content. The icon of the school is stuck directly onto the navigation bar so that it does not feel disconnected. “Staff log in” is also attached to the navigation bar so it is also not disconnected and feels like it is one visual unit.