Mrs. Gruney's 5th grade Website: http://www.livebinders.com/play/play/468045#anchor
Ms. Renner's Website:
http://www.gcschools.net/tusculum/classes/5th/rennerwebpage/rennerwebmain.htm

My final project will be a classroom website for my 5th graders and their parents. I found two other 5th grade classroom websites, Mrs. Gurney and Ms. Renner. Both websites contain multiple links to other sites, such as the school or sites that provide additional academic support for students. Mrs. Gurney's website many tabs geared toward parent communication, such as her various classroom policies and classroom updates. Ms. Renner's website has far fewer pages that focus on more immediate times such as a monthly calendar and weekly assignments. Neither site has an embedded way to contact the teacher, which would force a student or parent to have to search through a different website in order to do so.

"Mrs. Gurney's 5th grade Classroom Website"
This website opens a picture of the teacher and a brief description of the purpose of the site. There are multiple tabs located at the top that link to different pages. These pages range from Classroom Policies to specific content websites. The background is a light green with gray tabs and white text. They are easy to read and clearly state what information is located within them. However, the number of tabs makes the site look cluttered. Many of the separate tabs could be combined to make navigation of the material more streamlined. The tabs remain visible at the top of a page making navigating between them quick and simple. Linked documents appear quickly and users are given the options of reading on the page, in a new window, or to download the document. There are pages that do not contain any text or graphics and others that only describe the page's purpose, which was frustrating as a user.

"Ms. Renner's Website"
Ms. Renner's site is very brightly colored with a bright green background and multi-colored tabs across the top. The text is a very elementary, hand drawn font but is easy to read. The first page has many different links at the bottom to a wide variety of academic resources for students and parents. These are not immediately apparent when opening the website and require the user to scroll down in order to see them. Many of the pages take you to an external site, which is not very convenient if you are using Mrs. Renner's Website for multiple things. It would be much simpler for the user if the pages opened in a new tab, allowing them to stay on the original website as well. The pages that do stay within the website have a homepage link as part of the navigation bar, which is very helpful.

Use Cases
The website I am planning will be a communication and resource tool for both the parents and students in my class. One use case would be a parent looking for additional information about our classroom, such as upcoming due dates and events. There will be a monthly calendar with these dates available, as well as an embedded way to contact me with further questions about these items. A second use case would be a student needing assistance outside of the

classroom with work. They would have access to relevant materials used during lessons, as well as independent websites that could provide more explanation or practice.

Peer Comments

Upon visiting the two websites, I noticed some of the same things that you pointed out in your evaluation. I did think that Ms. Gurney's tabs made the website easy to navigate. It can be distracting when a webpage opens a new window each time you click on a link, so I appreciated the efficiency. I appreciated the graphics and colors of Ms.Renner's website, but when I clicked on school menu, it took me to another page with no warning, so I agree that it was a tad bit inconvenient. Also I agree that contact information is important, and should be easy to find on the website. Your review is accurate and informative!

I found the background and font of Ms. Renner's website to be distracting and hard to look at. Especially with the collage of images in the middle. I see this as a weakness of the site. You also mentioned that it would be simpler to open pages in a new tab, but there is a tab that takes you back to the homepage labelled "Ms. Renner's Website" in a smaller font. It would probably help if this tab just simple said "HOME". I was really put off by the structure Mrs. Gurney's home page. The giant picture of her with the very small print describing the purpose of the site seems to take away from the purpose. I didn't see a problem with the number of tabs as it seems organized. She could have combined some of the tabs as they don't all contain much on each sub page. That would make it seem less cumbersome.