Parental Feedback in the BrightSpace Grade Book? Yes, indeed!
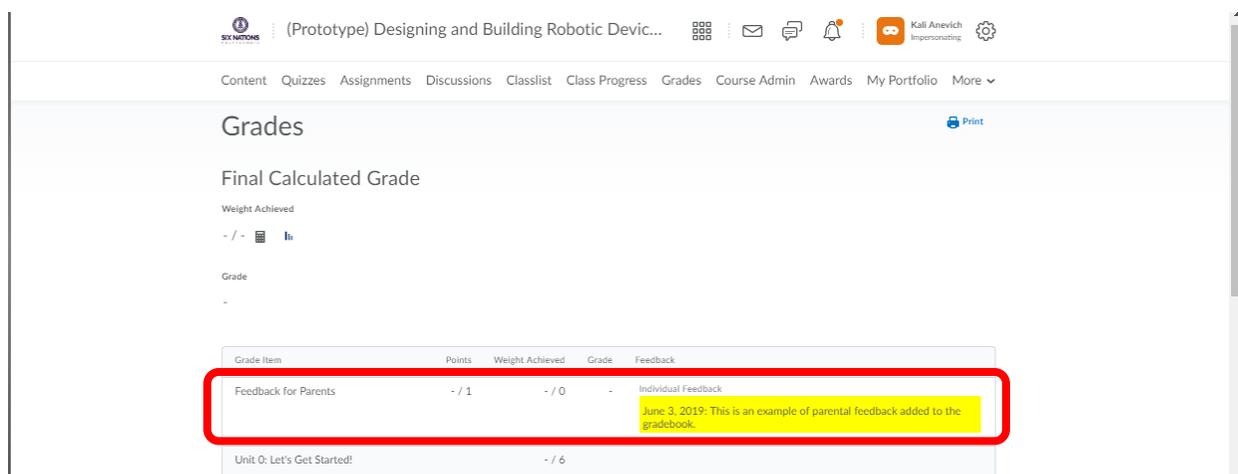
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I wrestle with communicating with parents *and* keeping track of these communications *in one place*. So, why not go to the place where parent often go – *their child's grade book*?
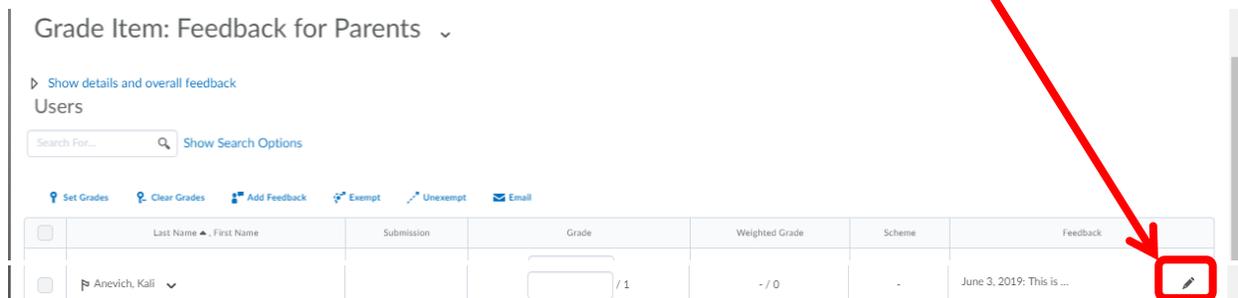
This is easier than it sounds!

Add an entry to the grade book. Give it a meaningful name (e.g., *Feedback for Parents*). Sort the gradebook entries so that the *Feedback for Parents* grade item appears first in the grade book.

In the gradebook, select the *Feedback for Parents* grade item then click the pencil to add feedback.

Use a table and set the background colour to yellow to make the *Feedback for Parents* stand out.

The resulting HTML code is shown here.

Prefix each entry with a date – I prefer the unambiguous APA date format – so that the chronology of multiple entries is clear.

This is what the student (or the student's parents/guardian) sees in the BrightSpace grade book:

Tip: Consider creating a welcome message initially (e.g., *This is a place where the teacher will be sharing feedback with parents. Please check often! Thank you!*). You can then copy this quickly and easily to each student so that each has a feedback block ready to use!

Whenever you need to add parental feedback, edit the *Feedback for Parents* grade item and add to it.

Your feedback is very welcome!

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