**Strategies to Recognise & Reinforce Student Achievement**

The following are examples of strategies that are used in our classrooms/school:

- Acknowledging students’ achievement;
  - in newsletters,
  - on classroom and/or school display boards,
  - through entry into external competitions,
  - in external display opportunities (Woolworths arcade, Education Week displays)
  - on the school message board,
  - on the website and
  - in the media
- Recognition through the presentation of awards at our Assemblies twice each term
- Classroom merit awards / ‘prizes’
- Student of the week
- Stickers/stamps
- Special privileges

Our Assemblies form a major part of our rewards system but it is important to recognise that it is only one of many ways student achievement is acknowledged. We have made many changes to our assemblies over the years and have tried to provide assemblies that are:

- Lead by our school captains
- Includes the Acknowledgement of Country
- Includes the National Anthem
- Has awards from all teaching staff to ensure all skill levels are valued
- Opportunities for awards from support staff and P&C on occasion
- An award system that builds to a higher level (explained below)
- Includes a feature presentation by a different class each assembly
- Includes awards that are subjective (student achievements selected by the staff) as well as objective (awards all students can achieve by completing specific tasks e.g. reading awards, Mathletics awards etc)

Our assemblies are structured in five week intervals, mid-term and in the last week of the school term. At each assembly, classroom teachers will present Bronze Awards for students who have demonstrated outstanding academic, sporting, citizenship or character development throughout that five week academic period.

**How the Empire Vale Award System works:**

**Bronze Awards** - Once students have earned five Bronze awards, they can trade them in to be promoted to Silver Award status.

- Bronze Award
- District sport ribbon (or higher level) is equivalent to a bronze award
- Small Schools sporting ribbons count as a Bronze award for K-2 students ONLY (see below)
- Special awards are equivalent to a bronze level award such as;
  - Public Speaking
- Debating
- Spelling Bee
- AEC Test Certificates (External Exams for the primary grades)
- Citizenship certificates presented by the P&C for ANZAC March attendance.
- 100 Club Reading Certificates
  - Mathletics certificates (Silver and Gold) are equivalent to a bronze level award. Please note that bronze Mathletics certificates are not counted in our award system as they are too easy to earn.

Please note: 5 x Primary Small Schools Association, (P.S.S.A) ribbons can be used to make up 1 bronze award for primary students. For infants’ students (K-2) who are not able to advance to the higher sporting levels, we count each ribbon they earn as a Bronze Award.

**Silver Awards** - Once students have earned five Silver Awards; they can trade in their awards to receive a Gold Award.

**Gold Awards** - Once students have earned two Gold Awards they will be eligible to attend the Principal’s Award Activity.

**Principal’s Award Activity** - Once achieving this status your child’s hard work will be rewarded with an invitation to attend a special event (to be determined each year based on numbers – in the past has been Ten Pin Bowling, Cinema, Overnight School Camp...)

Please Note: a number of adjustments to the awards system in 2015:

1. Students require 2 Gold Awards to reach Principal’s Activity level. (We would anticipate the average students earning enough awards to reach this level every 2-3 years) This used to be too difficult to achieve and in the last few years appeared to be too easy to achieve...

2. In the past, a bundle of 5 x bronze awards could contain an ‘out of school’ achievement. The bundles must contain at least 4 academic related awards, the fifth award could include an “out of school” achievement or a sport award/ribbons etc. By necessity, we have abolished the ‘out of school’ awards being included in our award system.

3. The Junior Primary class reading certificates have developed into an exciting award system in its own right. Mr Spencer is keen to introduce a perpetual trophy to celebrate great reading effort in his class. This program also includes a movie and popcorn when students reach their first 100 reading nights. The movie/popcorn reward usually happens in 3rd Term. Junior reading awards will continue to be awarded at the assembly, however, only the 100 / 200 / 300 reading nights certificates can be counted towards the ‘Principal’s Award Activity’.