



school **2** work news



Striking the right chord

MUSIC education at Nemarluk School is going from strength to strength.

Students from preschool to Year 6 take part in individual and group instruction tailored to students' needs and strengths.

The school caters for children who need specialised and individualised education programs.

Music teacher Jon Graham said their programs give each student a chance to sing and play a variety of instruments.

"Music is a creative outlet for the students, but it's also a way of teaching many things, like reading and numbers, at the same time," he said.

"Music is an essential part of life from the day we are born, so we're really just tapping into something that's already there."

Students learn singing,

rhythm and beat, and how to read music.

They also have opportunities to master several instruments, including the guitar, ukulele, drums, xylophone and bells.

They are encouraged to join the school choir in Years 5 and 6.

"The choir is particularly useful in teaching many skills, including voice projection, learning to remember and correctly pronounce words, and sustain focus before an audience," Mr Graham said.

"They recently performed before 380 delegates at a Darwin education conference, and participate in The Beat Festival and Music: Count Us In."

Shawn, in Year 6, said playing the xylophone is a great challenge.

"I like to learn new music, and I practise every Thursday

with Jon," he said. "When I first started it was hard, and it's still a bit tricky because Jon keeps making it harder."

Fellow Year 6 student Peter Callaghan has been learning the guitar and sings in the choir. "I get to learn new songs and chords every time I practise," he said. "Shawn and I are learning to play together in a duet."



Shawn, left, and Peter Callaghan
are learning music at Namarluk
School