



AT PRACTICE last Thursday, Nolan Henningson (middle) as Gladius prepared to fight for his princess while he talked with fellow cast members Amanda Marshall and Tyler Shields. The students will present the musical in the grade school gym at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Kids run lines, sing during practice for play

For the last month and a half, sixth graders and some fifth graders at Oberlin Elementary School have met after school to learn their lines, songs and tune up their acting skills for the annual grade school musical.

Vocal teacher Jim Buchholz, who will direct the play, said all of the students had to try out for their parts for the musical, "When in Rome." There are 25 kids in the cast, mostly sixth graders, although there are some fifth graders too.

The musical, said Mr. Buchholz, is about a petty thief who ends up having to fight a gladiator to win the heart of a princess. Although it is a musical, he said it is also a comedy.

Mr. Buchholz said he enjoys directing the musical each year. It is a good way to introduce kids to theater and let them find out how much work is involved in a production like this. This gives kids a chance to sing solos and act.

Each student is responsible for their own costumes, although he has some parents who have been helping out, including Kelly Shields, Jeni Henningson and Maureen Anderson. He said Anita Hirsch and Jeanette Diederich have helped with the backdrop for the musical.

The musical will start at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25, in the grade school gym. Admission is free.

Among the main characters are Serena Stacy, Princess; Nolan Henningson, Gladius; Tyler Shields, Minimus; Amanda Marshall, Julia; Samantha Anderson, a maid; and Brent Juenemann, Attilis.



ONSTAGE AT OBERLIN ELEMENTARY, Tyler Shields dragged Garrett Berry (above) off the stage. Brent Juenemann (right) looked under the curtain before practice started.

