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was a combination of circumstances which effectively denied their full participation in society and the local community in particular which irked them the most.



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Schools celebrate in song and story

By **EUGENE
PHELAN**

POETS, dancers, story-tellers, and quilt-makers are all taking part in a major schools art festival, this month.

"Although many of our schools are very close to each other, many of the pupils did not know each other, and this festival has helped bring many of them together," explained Eileen Kennelly, one of organisers of the arts festival for primary schools in the city.

Eileen is principal of the Limerick School project one of the five city schools involved in the festival for children ranging in age from four to sixteen years.

The theme of the festival, called Bealtaine Fest, is loosely based on the May Pole. The children are involved in a wide range of activities including the construction of a massive May Pole, which will be 18 feet long.

The decorative pole will be brought to the People's Park on the last Friday in May.

There are also a range of cross-school events from Irish dancing and music, story telling to creative writing and modern dance, classical and contemporary music and a variety of art and craft activities.

"In this, the 125th year of

the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, it is appropriate to celebrate Irish Education in such an exuberant and fun way," said Ms Kennelly.

Poets Gabriel Fitzmaurice and Ciaran O'Driscoll, story-teller Eddie Lenihan, writer and radio producer John Quinn, traditional musicians Margaret Farrelly and Ciaran O'Driscoll, quilt-maker Sarah Marshall, photographer Tom Short, singer/songwriter Nigel Coleman, art teacher Somanie van Son and artists Vivienne Bogan and Martin Folan are all taking part.

Among the other highlights will be a Rock and Rave in the Royal Theatre, Cecil Street, at 10.45 am on Wednesday, May 26, where 300 pupils are expected to attend.

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