

# **Newcomers Dictionary and Guide to Abbreviations at M'KIS**

By Joni Neteler

M'KIS and its surrounding communities have coined a lot of phrases and abbreviations that newcomers have a difficult time understanding. So here's a guide to just some of those terms. Hope it helps!

**AAM**-American Association of Malaysia

**ABWM**-Association of British Women in Malaysia

**ASA**-after school activity

**All finished**-this means the shop or restaurant has run out of whatever you've asked for

**Berita** (Bahasa for "news")-the school's magazine, published 5 times per year

**Blue Roofs**-the shops and offices of Desa Sri Hartimas

**Book Club**-an opportunity to order children's books twice a year

**Book Fair**-an opportunity to buy books in the library twice a year

**Class Mom**-the liaison for teachers and parents, helps to arrange classroom events

**Coffee Bean**-the "office", your second home, the mom's hangout. Call it what you'd like-you know what and where it is

**Cold Storage**-not a place where frozen foods, etc. are stored, but a good supermarket

**Cotillion**-an etiquette program for middle school students

**Country Representative**-a mom from one's home country who is available to answer questions, chat with, etc. Also helps plan Mari Makan

**Dinner Dance**-the social event of the year! An adult evening of fun. This year's event, a masked ball, is on November 19

**ES**-elementary school

**ESL**-English as a second language

**Early Dismissal**-a day when school finishes at 11:50 am

**Festive Season Luncheon**-a Christmas luncheon and shopping bazaar put on by the MKIS Charities Committee

**Fun Fair**-a PA fund raising carnival held at the school

**Helping Hands**-a middle school social club, which raises money for Malaysian charities

**HS**-High School

**ITBS**-Iowa Test of Basic Skills-annual test for Grades 3-5

**Little League**-a sports program for grade K-8, offering basketball, baseball and soccer

**Link**-the school's weekly newsletter

**MANZA**-Malaysian, Australian New Zealand Association

**Mari Makan** (Bahasa for "let's eat")-an adult only evening of international food and fun

**MCF**-Madeline's Children's Fund, a charity that helps Malaysian children with cancer

**MS**-Middle School

**MUN**-Model United Nations

**Mid-Night**-a social event for middle school students, ends at 10 pm, not midnight

**PA**-Parent Association

**Plaza**-the shops and offices of Mont'Kiara Plaza-

**Public Holiday**-a day off of school and work. Also, a day to avoid shopping centers

**Tigers**-nickname for M'KIS sports teams

**Tiger Sharks**-nickname for M'KIS swim team

**Roundabout** (traffic circle)-an alternative to traffic lights. Not a place for timid or hesitant drivers

**SEASAC**-the sports conference for M'KIS teams