

ES HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Every year, the M'KIS Elementary School pupils and their families eagerly await the annual Halloween Carnival, always held at M'KIS on the last Friday of October from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. This event originated several years ago when a group of MKIS mothers found that there were no Halloween activities in the Mont'Kiara vicinity, so they formed a committee to arrange a scary and enthralling evening for the children within the safe environs of M'KIS premises. The event has grown, becoming more elaborate and memorable each year through the volunteer efforts of the Parent Association's Halloween Committee and the ES class parent representatives.

On Halloween night, a spooky ambience creeps through the dimly-lit courtyard, ES classrooms and breezeway as these areas morph into a bewitching and eerie setting, hosting game stalls (such as Candy Walk, Deadly Twisters, Monster Bowling, Pumpkin Toss, Spooky Sensation, Wheel Of Horror, Pin The Wart On The Witch etc), glow-in-the-dark ghoulish surprises, chilling music and a mystery Trick Or Treat Trail. Children come along in their costumes with their Halloween Ghost bag (these environmentally-friendly, re-useable bags can be purchased in advance at school for RM5) and have a spookalific time at this fête, collecting candies and winning prizes.

As the event is widely considered one of the most organized, creative and most enviable Halloween parties staged in the area, there have been several incidents where non-MKIS children in the neighborhood attempt to attend. Consequently, measures have been taken to restrict access to ES children, their siblings and their guests. M'KIS children are given a Halloween token before the event, which they must bring along to gain entry. Any visiting friends or neighbors may also attend if they accompany an ES M'KIS pupil and pay RM5 per person to obtain the Halloween Ghost bag.

The Halloween Committee is comprised of PA council members and volunteers. The committee is responsible for decorations, erecting stalls, preparing the prizes, providing a wicked DJ and unnerving music, securing sponsors for water and juices and liaising with class representatives to ensure there are plenty of treats for everyone. The committee begins work one month prior to the carnival with a brainstorming session to decide theme, decorations, advertising and communications, potential sponsors, games and a briefing session with the class parent representatives. Additional meetings occur as required, with the activity ramping up from 3:00pm on day of the carnival.

Volunteers can sign up for this committee at the Newcomers Coffee Morning either at the start of the school year or at a later date when the sign-up sheets are put up on the notice board outside the main office. Announcements are placed in The Link closer to the time of the event. No specific experience or talent is required to be a helper, just some dedication and time at home to prepare decorations and props and assist with setting up and dismantling stalls. It is also a useful additional bonus to have connections with potential sponsors for water, juice, decorations, posters and sample products as door gifts. Sponsors may include their business pamphlets with the door gifts.

Apart from the assistance of sponsors, the event is largely funded by the PA, except for candies given out on the Trail. Discussion is in progress for this to be fully covered by the PA.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact any PA council member or Kim Cheong on 012-2223234 or email: Halloween@mkis.pa.my.