

# Mari Makan

This is an annual event held near the end of the school year. It is an evening dinner where parents and teachers gather together to both re-affirm their own national pride and also to savour the delicious food and customs from all the countries represented within the M'KIS community. As there are families from around 50 different nations within the school, this is a fun-filled "United Nations" party where each country showcases its identity and national spirit through costumes, shared food, music, and display boards.

As the name implies, the focal point of the function is a feast of the traditional and/or favourite foods from each country. It is an evening of feasting and then dancing the night away to music from around the world. Prior to the night, each country rep liaises with the country members to decide a distinctive theme for their country, which is then portrayed through food, dress and displays. This event is always a highly enjoyable way to mix and mingle, meeting new faces and re-acquainting with old friends, re-inforcing country bonds and loyalties as well as the rich diversity within our school community.

In March, the Mari Makan chairperson will approach country reps as well as any parents who previously volunteered to participate in organising Mari Makan, which is held in April. The role of the committee is to arrange the hiring and setting-up of tables, chairs, plates, cutlery and marquees to transform the Breezeway into an international dining extravaganza. Parents can get involved by talking to their country reps and germinating ideas for a country theme, marking the date in their calendar and coming along to committee meetings to help with planning and logistics. Even if a parent did not add their name to the Mari Makan committee list at the start of the school year, it is not too late to get involved. Further information will be provided through The Link closer to the event, just keep your eyes open for the Mari Makan logo.

## FAQ

**Where is the event held?** On school premises - held in the Breezeway.

**What is the format?** Guests wander around each country's buffet table, serving themselves, then, return to one of the many dining tables to eat and drink.

**Who provides the food and drink?** The adults in each country group decide how they will provide the food, usually everyone contributes something home-made or a specialty caterer will be used, funded by the members of that country. Alcohol is permitted but adults need to bring their own drinking cups or glasses.

**Are children allowed to attend?** No, alcohol is served and the event usually runs late into the night.

**What is the cost?** There are two categories of cost. The cost to stage each country's buffet and buy / make costumes is funded by the adults in that country group who attend the dinner. This cost varies from year to year and group to group, depending on what decisions are made by the country group. The cost of hiring tables, plates, and cutlery is recovered from all dinner guests purchasing a ticket for a nominal fee (usually around RM20 per person).

**What consideration is given for our diet and religious eating practices?** Each country is mindful of the customs of our host country so any pork products are well labelled, as are any foods with nuts etc. It is up to each country group to ensure that a suitable selection of food is provided for the country members and for sharing. Usually there is ample vegetarian food provided.