

Parent Letter

Date

Dear Parents and Families,

We are currently reading the book *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Haddix about a futuristic society in which families are allowed only two children (if you have Internet access and would like to read a review of this book, you can access one at <http://www.sfsite.com/09b/amo41.htm>. Several online booksellers have summaries of the book as well). Some families in the society break the law and have three children. For the protection of both the third child and the family, the third child is not allowed to leave his or her room. As a class, we have been discussing what it would be like if we were not allowed to leave our rooms for our entire lives.

Perhaps it would be interesting for the kids to briefly simulate this experience in order to have a better sense of what Luke, the main character, might have been feeling. If you agree, and if your child is interested, may I suggest that you decide on a three- or four-hour period on a weekend during which your child will remain in his or her room, leaving only for an emergency such as going to the bathroom. (Meals would be served to the room.) Your child should try to remain as quiet as possible during this time, having contact only with those family members who choose to stop in for a brief visit. This restricted freedom should provide your child with personalized insights into Luke's experience.

Perhaps you could encourage your child to write in a journal about the experience of being "trapped" in a single space. If you like, you might add your own notes about how you felt, having to keep your child isolated from everyone else.

This is an OPTIONAL assignment. In class, we will use the experiences and journal entries of those who chose to participate to enrich our understandings of Luke's thoughts and feelings.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,