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Two Poems: Connected, Open Minds

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Connected

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Stories are read over Zoom,
Students are fit to boxes
On screens,
Listening, silently.

They don't line up together,
Bubbling with excitement
On the way to recess;
We miss the discoveries,
The exclamations,
The science experiments,
In our classrooms.

Creativity looks different today;
There aren't paint stains on desks
Left from art projects,
Or playdough crumbs to be picked up.

The vibrant atmosphere,
The warmth and joy,
Aren't quite so palpable here
In homes away from home.

It's like we're without our center,
Fitting the mold
Left by restrictions

During the pandemic,
When learning styles are conformed
To one mode of pedagogy,
Virtually.

Still, learning can be personalized,
Coming alive,
Because classrooms aren't defined
By walls.

As a family, we make the best
Of these times when we can
Make teacher visits to houses,
Send birthday wishes, homemade signs,
Parades serving to remind
Us of the glue that binds
Us together,
Stronger
Than anything.

Open Minds

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It was once a goal
For technology to be integrated
Into the classroom,
Helping students to refine
Their digital literacy.

There were purists and progressives,
Traditionalists and techies,
Different views of how to teach,
Enriching education,
Creating the greatest reach,
Impacting students invariably.

Smartboards and smart TVs,
Chromebooks and iPads,
Redefined
The learning environment,
No longer chalkboards
Or apples on desks,
But still, doors opened
By knowledge
At our fingertips.

Technology was an ideal
Further interwoven
Into standards and tests,
A competency

To be measured increasingly.

Now, it is the only option,
Adopted fully,
No moment for hesitancy.
It is our mission
To continue educating,
Helping students thrive
During these times,
Being guides
With open minds
As we adapt
To virtual learning,
Growing together,
Becoming better.

As technology advances,
So do we.