Pandemic Paranoia and Proximity: A Transformation

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A new school year
Grades    Classrooms
Teachers   Lessons
Challenges
Altered schedules
Textbooks sealed and shunned
Classrooms depersonalized
Insidious threats
    From unseen aerosols
Unsocial atmosphere
    Untraced contacts
Atypical behavior
    Waves, not hugs
Voices commanding
    “Keep Six Feet Apart”
Unnatural Separation
    Clear viscous gel
For sanitizing
    Protecting
    Insulating
    Assuring
An ominous environment
Pandemic    Paranoia
And
Proximity

School and society
Based in reality
Intense toil
Risks outweigh rewards
Social Distancing
No longer The practice
A young boy
And a young maiden
Must be mandated
To maintain
During middle school High school
Dances Proms
Study sessions Dates

Distancing now including
Classroom seating
Hallway travels
Greetings
Inquiry
Casual chatter
Heightened emotions
Attempted outreach
Disjointed Engagement
Dispirited outlook

Human touch Removed
High fives Shunned
Fist bumps Prohibited
Hugs On high alert
Robotic students
Masked
Gloved
Shielded
Separated
Shunned
Lockers
Off limits
Sealed tightly
With firmness
and precision
Hallways transformed
To highways
Divided
Controlled
Unidirectional

Lessons
Hybrid
Virtual
Internet Intervention
Zoom
Meet
Google
Chat Box
Electronic education
Technological diversification
Classes condensed
Constrained
Compartmentalized
Separation
Space Imposition
Sirens in homes
Alluring distractions
Minecraft
Fortnite
Pokemon
Roblox
Instagram
Snapchat
Learners challenged
Procedures transformed
Redefined
Repurposed
Relied upon
Focus
Brevity
Clarity

Videos
Instructional
Investigational
Inspirational

Legislated Separation
Devastation
Emotional Incarceration
Uncharacteristic Avoidance

Simplicity
Now complexity
Breathing regulations
Stress intensification
Unsolved enigmas

Daily challenges
To SEL
PBL
Group activity
After-school clubs
New lesson designs

Activities       Postponements
Cancellations    Expectations
Of persistence
   Of continuance
   Procedures to adapt
To follow
To obey
Challenges to overcome
   Frustration to mount
Scapegoats to seek
   Searches conducted
      For targets
         Frustration
         Ventilation

Heroes reimagined
   From typical categories
Essential service
In classrooms
   Teachers       Aides
   Custodians     Administration
In districts
In homes        And communities
Bus Drivers     Students
Parents/Guardians
Methodical inversion
Of Disney       Maslow
   And more

Consequences
Constantly dire
Hope
  Losing luster
Nature separated
  From nurture
Uncommonality
  Unfamiliarity
Compromise
  Concession
Social Convulsion
  Classrooms reflecting community
Lessons losing touch
  With humanity
Society shunning
  Sensitivity
Pandemic    Paranoia
And
  Proximity
School mirroring society
  A transformation
    Based
      In reality