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School News

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Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District



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LAUSD... History • Music • STEAM

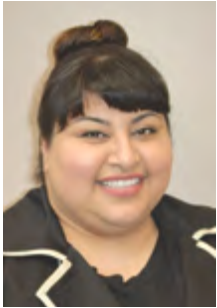


Celebrating Our Classified Employees



Dr. Sherry Kropp
Superintendent

One of my favorite times of the year is when we get to celebrate our classified employees. Over 600 of our employees work to support teaching and learning by providing highly skilled and talented support in a variety of areas, such as clerical, transportation, child care, food services, instructional assistance, business services, grounds, and facilities. We are grateful for these employees and appreciate the difference they are making in the lives of our students and families. This year, we get to recognize three of these employees as our 2019 Classified Employees of the Year.



Imelda Hernandez
Food Service Assistant-Satellite Cafe, Rossmoor

Imelda Hernandez has been an extraordinary food service employee for the District for the past eight years. She is a wonderful champion for students at Rossmoor Elementary. She consistently shows her dedication and commitment to the students and her coworkers

each and every day. Imelda's eyes light up every time children enter the cafeteria. Every detail counts – the right temperature, great quality, an appetizing look – and it's all served with a warm smile. No matter what kind of day she is having, Imelda comes with a positive outlook and sense of humor. She finds solutions, overcomes obstacles, and always puts students first. She remembers students on their birthdays, and she perks up the cafeteria with decorations to keep the environment fun-spirited. Imelda is reliable, industrious, conscientious, and a great team player. She cares deeply about her job and strives to deliver her best. Imelda Hernandez is a shining example of the best in Los Alamitos Unified, and we are pleased to recognize her as our Classified Employee of the Year for Child Nutrition.



Gabriel Ramirez
Bus Driver, Auxiliary

Gabe Ramirez is an instrumental employee in the Transportation Department and has served the District as a bus driver and driver trainer for the past 24 years. He is a very conscientious and dedicated person who cares deeply about our students and the service we provide to them.

Under his training and guidance, our drivers are some of the safest in the State. He is well respected throughout the county and with the California Highway Patrol for his dedication, attention to detail, and genuine passion for student safety. He has transported thousands of students to and from school, to events and competitions, and on field trips. Gabe consistently demonstrates compassion for our students and their safety and often receives letters of appreciation, certificates, and small tokens from students and parents for the special care and service he provides to families. Gabe is simply an exemplary employee who is positive and loves Los Al. We are thrilled to recognize him as our Classified Employee of the Year for Transportation.



Cynthia Johns
Preschool Lead, Weaver

Coworkers throughout the District will tell you that Cindy Johns is a true joy to work with and her reputation with our families is incredible. For the past 27 years, Cindy has been teaching and nurturing our District's youngest students. She has helped to grow the Child Development Center (CDC) into the high quality program it is today. She provides exceptional care and early childhood education – with just the right balance of developmentally appropriate play and academics – so that children graduating from preschool are ready for kindergarten and beyond. Cindy and her team have implemented programs that are impacting students in a positive way and have trickled up into our primary grades to support our students. Cindy is a lifelong learner and is always in pursuit of professional development opportunities to keep up with best practices in early childhood education. She is a mentor and a model for all of the CDC staff, and we are proud to recognize her as our Classified Employee of the Year for Instructional Services.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Diana D. Hill
President

Modernization Projects

Exciting times lie ahead for Los Alamitos Unified! With our community giving us a strong vote of confidence by passing Measure G in the recent election, we are ready to embark on projects that will greatly enhance the ability of our students to excel in the Four As — Academics, Athletics, Activities and the Arts.

Using the proceeds from the \$97-million Measure G bond sales, combined with funds from the previously passed Measure K and matching funds obtained from the state and other sources, dramatic improvements to the high school will be made soon and in the years that follow:

The largest and most important of these projects is construction of a three-story classroom building at Los Alamitos High School that will provide students with state-of-the-art science lab facilities and transform the appearance of the Cerritos Avenue campus. The 83,000 square-foot structure — estimated to cost \$52.4 million — is planned to break ground next year and open in fall of 2021, will include 14 science classrooms, 13 general education classrooms, and career and technical education centers for subjects such as sports medicine, engineering, and robotics. In addition, the building will serve as the main entrance to the campus and house administrative, health and counseling offices, the career center, and a media center that will be designed to encourage a wide range of student collaboration activities.

In addition, construction of the multi-story building will enable the high school to remove 26 aging portable classrooms that are no longer adequate to serve student needs and free up space for future improvements.

An essential companion project to the new classroom building, however, is our effort, now underway, to bring the Los Alamitos High campus up to current standards for electrical and data systems. A new building would not be

possible without dramatically upgrading the 51-year-old campus infrastructure to support and accommodate future electrical and technology needs. The extensive trenching and laying of cable and conduit is temporarily inconvenient but will guarantee that our students will be able to access the 21st-Century learning needed to pursue successful careers.

A new aquatic center would replace the aging, undersized pool that does not meet requirements for water polo competition with a state-of-the-art pool that would enable us to host official meets and practice for swimming, diving and water polo.

A second gym, in combination with the old gymnasium, would provide three courts for students to practice at school instead of having to be transported off-campus as they are now. The district is working with the school administration and architects to come up with the best proposed location for the new facility. The new gym would include a foyer that would serve as a main entrance as well as a Hall of Fame honoring the extensive athletic achievements of Griffins in all sports.

A renovated Performing Arts Center would serve as a hub for the schools burgeoning arts programs and allow more community members a chance to see our students perform and excel. Our award winning instrumental music, choir, jazz, drama, and dance programs, for example, now are forced to schedule up to five sold-out shows in a weekend just to accommodate demand for tickets.

Finally, we plan to add restrooms at Hopkinson, Los Alamitos Elementary, and Los Alamitos High School, replace aging elementary playgrounds, and explore ways to renovate the outdoor amphitheater spaces at Oak and McAuliffe middle schools to better support activities on those campuses.

With the ongoing upgrading of all school sites that we have undertaken in recent years, these projects give us confidence that Los Alamitos Unified is doing its utmost to ignite unlimited possibilities for all of our students.

Board of Education



Diana D. Hill
President



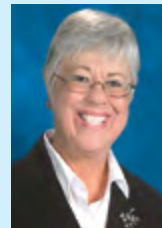
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Happy New Year!

By now you are used to writing 2019 as time marches on. This is our 16th year publishing *School News* covering LAUSD. Thank you for continuing to be loyal readers. We thank our advertisers, who make it possible for us to print the excellence in the LAUSD.

Each year there are many changes in the classroom. In this issue you will read about Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), Math Exploration classes, The Great Pipeline Challenge, and much more...

Thank you for your comments when you email your contest entries. It is wonderful so many of you take time away from technology and put pencil to paper for a few minutes to enjoy working the word searches. Thank you also for your responses to our syndicated columnists articles. MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach writes on vital health subjects. When space permits we include as many student book reviews as possible. Keep your comments coming and we'll incorporate as many ideas as we can.

Have a wonderful Spring Break. Our next issue is April 10.



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Negative Effects of Energy Drinks on Your Teen



Saar Danon, M.D.
medical director,
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Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Energy drinks have rapidly become a go-to beverage for teens. According to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, energy drinks are the most consumed products by teens and young adults in the United States.

They may not understand, however, the harm energy drinks can have on their developing bodies. Here's what you and your teen need to know about energy drinks and their long-term effects:

- Almost one third of teens between the ages of 12 and 17-years-old consume energy drinks regularly.
- Large amounts of caffeine may harm children's still-developing cardiovascular and nervous systems. A 24 oz. energy drink may contain the same amount of caffeine as four or five cups of coffee.

- According to the American Heart Association, drinking a single 16 oz. energy drink boosts blood pressure and stress hormone responses in young, healthy adults. These changes can lead to an abnormal, irregular heartbeat or even sudden cardiac death.
- Energy drinks may cause heart problems that develop later into adulthood, despite not being immediately present during adolescence.

Energy drinks should not be considered a healthy beverage option for children or young adults. If your teen is looking for a boost of energy, recommend a healthier option, like exercising, stretching, getting more sleep or drinking a fruit-filled smoothie.

The Children's Heart Institute at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach encourages families to talk with their children about the affects energy drinks can have on their hearts.



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Chandler, 11-months-old,
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Chandler's specialty:

Casual Cruiser

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Hopkinson *Elementary*

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Evelyn Garcia
Principal

What is CGI?

Huskies are diving deep into conceptual math understanding. Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) is an approach, rather than a curriculum program, to teaching mathematics that helps

deepen mathematical reasoning and understanding. This approach is the practice of listening to children's mathematical thinking and using it as a basis for instruction.

Research-based frameworks of children's thinking in the domains of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, base-ten concepts, multidigit operations, algebra, geometry and fractions provide guidance to teachers for listening to their students. Children learn a variety of strategies they collaborate with and share in class. It is amazing to walk through TK



through fifth-grade classrooms and listen to students' mathematical reasoning. Children use their skills to empower their own learning. This allows for teachers to take anecdotal notes and use the information to guide next steps and instruction.

Lee *Elementary*

11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • www.losal.org



Amy Laughlin
Principal

Character Education

Lee Elementary School prides itself on fostering positive character development. Including character education as part of our regular curriculum helps to teach our students the critically important skills they need to become socially and emotionally successful. Schools that embrace character education

help promote a growth mindset and bring out the best in everyone. This in turn helps to improve academic achievement.

Each month, students from every classroom are recognized and awarded for exhibiting a specific character trait. These include responsibility, self-discipline, compassion, generosity, honesty, respect, and perseverance. Parents are invited to grade-level assemblies where these special students are recognized by their teachers and celebrated by their peers.



Additionally, one Lee student is selected every day to receive the "A for the Day" award. Lee staff members acknowledge those students who stand out in the areas of academics, arts, athletics, attendance, attitude, and/or activities.

Lee Elementary School's comprehensive character education program encourages connectivity and inclusivity, and helps to promote our positive school climate.



Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • www.losal.org



Gary Willems
Principal

Highlighting Positive Behavior

Los Alamitos Elementary School (LAE) has taken several steps this year to increase positive student behavior.

This year we started a mentoring program, where we teach our Tigers the importance of being good role models. Our fifth-graders mentor our kindergarten students, our fourth-graders mentor our first-graders, and our third-graders mentor our second-graders. These mentor roles have given our younger Tigers role examples to look up to on campus and have shown our older Tigers that their actions influence our younger students.

LAE also started Kindness Awards for students who have been seen doing something kind outside of the classroom. So far, we have awarded students for standing up to bullies, picking up trash, and helping their fellow Tigers. In January, LAE also started A for the Day,



celebrating one student each day who has excelled in the area of academics, attitude, acceptance, ambition, and accountability.

All of these efforts have allowed us to decrease behavior issues while celebrating the character traits we strive to teach at LAE.



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Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • www.losal.org



Dr. Gregg Stone
Principal

Honor Musicians

By Alison Cotter, Member – Instrumental Boosters

Each year, the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) hosts honor ensembles to bring together Southern California's best elementary, middle, and high school musicians. After a rigorous audition process, jazz, orchestra, and band students are chosen from schools spanning from San Luis Obispo to San Diego.

This year we are proud to announce that five Griffins were selected as SCSBOA Honor Musicians. Congratulations to this year's shining stars Julia Carpenter, junior—violin in High School Orchestra; Lance Kaiser, senior—trumpet in Jazz Ambassadors; Santiago Lopez, sophomore—tenor saxophone in Jazz Ambassadors; Brennan Murray, sophomore—drums in Jazz All-Stars; and Max Nguyen, freshman—drums in Honor Jazz Band.



LAHS 2019 Honor Musicians : Santiago Lopez, Lance Kaiser, Julia Carpenter, Max Nguyen, and Brennan Murray

Jazz students performed on January 25 and the High School Orchestra performed on January 27. Congratulations to our honor musicians!

McAuliffe *Middle School*

4112 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • www.losal.org



Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright
Principal

McAuliffe STEAM Club

This semester students at McAuliffe teamed up to explore and discover in the McAuliffe STEAM Club. The McAuliffe STEAM Club, in partnership with LAEF, challenged students with original curriculum in four unique sessions.

Students used CAD Design and 3D printing to design models. Then, students worked together to engineer a pipeline in



“The Great Pipeline Challenge” to simulate the flow of water from the Colorado River to Los Alamitos. Next, students explored coding and robotics using LEGO EV3 robot kits. Lastly, students participated in “CSI: McAuliffe” to solve the case of the missing chromebooks; applying their knowledge of forensic science, students analyzed suspects’ fingerprints, lip prints, and hair follicles to find the culprit!

Look out for more from these McAuliffe Eagles at this year’s STEAM Fair!



McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • www.losal.org



Roni Ellis
Principal

The Beach is Ali-i-ive...

The McGaugh Sea Lions enjoy a wonderful partnership with the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee, which recently presented them with a check for \$1,000 for their music program. The Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee raises

funds for local schools

through the Cruise of Lights program during the holidays and provides the music mobile as well as grant opportunities to local schools.

McGaugh principal Roni Ellis and music teacher Topher VonKolen wrote a grant to the HHPC hoping to purchase instruments, microphones and a portable Bluetooth sound

system. McGaugh was thrilled to be a recipient for the second straight year. The check was presented to Principal Ellis and Mr. VonKolen along with the Sea Lion Chorus at a recent assembly.

The McGaugh and Seal Beach communities appreciate the efforts of the HHPC and look forward to a long and lasting relationship. Rah, McGaugh!



Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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Oak Middle School

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Erin Kominsky
Principal

Math-Exploration Classes

It's second semester at Oak Middle School, and we are excited to launch our very first Math Exploration classes at zero period. Over 100 students arrive to school at 7:50 a.m. to participate in an extra period of math instruction. Our goal is to expand our daily 45 minutes of math instruction to 90 minutes while giving students an opportunity to see real-life application and problem solving.

We are offering four morning courses that include Algebra, Introduction to Algebra, and Math 6 and 7. It is so joyful to see our students and staff so excited about learning math. Many students can be seen sharing their zero-period math problems with friends at the lunch tables. Students are exploring patterns in math along with having an opportunity to "play with numbers." All participants have volunteered to attend these math classes Monday through Friday through the end of the semester.

Our teachers Mrs. Vanderlinden, Mr. Berger, Mrs. Berthon and Mrs. Gardner want to share their love for math while helping to build confidence in their students.



Rossmoor Elementary

3272 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4520 • www.losal.org



Amy Belsha
Principal

Making History Come Alive

In January, our fifth-grade students participated in an on-campus field trip called "Walk Through the Revolution." The students had been preparing for over a month to learn their parts, and they were ready and eager to travel back in time and experience the Revolutionary War era first hand!

This event was an engaging presentation that allowed students to reenact the history that has taken place in our nation, and also help bring these important events to life. Our students "became" famous men and women during the exercise and gained a deeper understanding of the Revolutionary War, not to mention being able to put their acting skills to use!

The students spent over a month preparing for their parts and

learning about the history of this historical event, and they were prepared to shine! Parents were also invited from each classroom to watch the amazing productions. Our Knights made some amazing memories that they will never forget!



Weaver *Elementary*

11872 Wembley Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4580 • www.losal.org



**Dr Robert
Briggerman**
Principal

Full "Steam" Ahead!

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, or STEAM, originated in 2011 originally without the "A", back when former President Obama ignited a movement to teach 21st-century skills. The "A" was added in 2016 to empower creativity and promote collaboration across the disciplines. This concept ties in directly with our district's vision that

students will develop skills in critical and creative thinking and problem-solving in order to excel in advanced studies across the curriculum.

Weaver is excited to be partnering with other elementary schools, the L.A.E.F, and the Growing Up STEM Club at Los Alamitos High School. We are also excited to be hosting a STEAM. night on February 13th featuring science demos by high school students for K-5 students. Dr. Tom will also conduct STEAM classes for our Weaver students to design their own science projects to be presented at the District STEAM Fair on April 6th at Los Alamitos High School.



Building Robots

Seal Beach Animal Care Center

1700 Aldofo Lopez Dr., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/430-4993 • www.sbacc.org

Why People Surrender Pets to Animal Shelters

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Most people have a good reason for giving up a beloved pet. Maybe they have to move to a place where the landlord doesn't allow pets, that allergies have become an issue, or that they can't afford to take care of the animal any longer.

These reasons are understandable, but other reasons raise more concern. Some say that they don't have time for the pet. Others state that the pet soils for no apparent reason without considering that the problem might be a medical issue or a response to lack of attention. Pet owners often say they are renovating the house or redoing the yard and don't want the pet to ruin their new things. We have even heard pet owners say that they didn't know the animal would get big or sleep all day!

There are many reasons pet owners relinquish their pets to a shelter. However, though animal shelters and rescues offer options to give pets a better life, other options should be considered to help unwanted pets find new homes. In addition, it is important to realize that welcoming a pet into your family is a commitment, and the animal's best interests should be carefully considered when making this decision.

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Keira's Book Nook



Keira

Death to the Xua

Valiant is a book of true love, heartbreak, and falsities. In this novel the world is in constant danger, making the book fast-paced and exciting. One obstacle is the world's depleted resources. In addition, there is action at every corner and the author takes the time to exhibit the main character's relationships with her friends.



In an apocalyptic world of aliens called the Xuas, protagonist Sara has watched her friends perish in terrible ways, multiple times. Fortunately, each time this came about Sara was taken back in time to try again. But this time, there is no one to do so. Now, Sara must relieve the world of an alien invasion with the help of her friends and brother.

I can't wait for the second book of the series to come out and will read it as soon as I can! I rate this book 5 out of 5 apples.

Keira is a 7th grader who loves to read. She also enjoys crafts, traveling, soccer and playing with her cats. Her reviews are rated from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

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CAMPING—Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
 When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put LAUSD in the subject line.
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Congratulations to
Ren Nagai
 Winner of our December Word Search Contest!

Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Branch Library

12700 Montecito Rd., Seal Beach CA 90740 • 562/430-1048 • www.ocpl.org



Semra Bilsel
Branch Manager

Exciting February Library Programs

Valentine's Program: February 13th- 4:00pm-Drop in for kids and teens to create your own Valentine for that special someone in your life. All supplies provided.

Teen Book Group: Join us as we discuss the book "Sawkill Girls" by Claire Legrand. Open to ages 13-18, snacks provided and books can be found at the Service Desk. February 14th- 4:00pm

Baby and Toddler Storytime: Our youngest patrons, birth to 3 years, and caregiver can join in on storytime fun. Books will be read with songs, rhymes, and activities to get started on the path to Early Literacy.

February 21st and 28th – 11:30 – 11:50am

Preschool Storytime and Craft Time: Storytime is a fun way to get your kids excited about books and reading. Parents/caretakers can chat with one another and make friends. Stay after and join us to take part in a craft activity! All supplies are available. Open to ages 2-6.

February 25th – 11:30am – 12:15pm

Sensory Play: Expand your child's learning through hands on activities that stimulate the senses! Open to ages birth to 5 years old, different activities provided based on age range. February 28th – 11:50am – 12:15pm

Little Architects: Drop in to get creative with Legos and Duplos. Meets the first and third Wednesdays of month. Ages 4 and up. Feb 20th – 4:00 – 5:00pm

B is for Book



Bailey

Fantastic to the End!

I just LOVED *Restart*, by Gordon Karman. It made me laugh and kept me interested with the action.

Boom! Chase wakes up in the hospital. What happened? Where's his mother? He can't remember anything, except a blonde girl with a blue dress. With each day that goes by, Chase meets "new" people and finds out "new" things about him that help bring back the memories of his old life: a cherry bombed piano, a stolen medal of honor, a football star, a cruel bully... Will Chase be able to remember his past? Will he be able to fix it? Or will he remain the rotten kid he was before?

Gordon Karman definitely wrote a great book! I like how the book shows the point of view and opinions from the different characters. I rate this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.



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Meaningful Work-Based Learning Opportunities



Dr. Al Mijares
*Superintendent
Orange County
Dept. of Education*

On a recent Tuesday morning, an atrium inside the Irvine headquarters of Edwards Lifesciences offered a glimpse of the transformational shift that's taking place in public education.

Educators mixed with business leaders to talk about meaningful work-based learning opportunities. Student-led exhibits highlighted career paths in critical industry sectors, including health science, engineering, agriculture and hospitality. High-level executives shared their time and their stories with future leaders.

The occasion was the fourth annual OC Pathways Showcase, which on Nov. 27 celebrated partnerships between educators and industry leaders that are creating classroom-to-career pathways that begin as early as middle school.

Led by the Orange County Department of Education, OC Pathways was launched in 2014 with a grant from the state, and it's since expanded to include dozens of school districts, businesses, colleges and local agencies. All are working together to equip students with the competencies they'll need to thrive in an economy that will look very different than the one that's dominated the last century.

Automation, artificial intelligence and other high-tech disruptions are dramatically reshaping how we think about work, inducing varying degrees of anxiety. According to a 2017 report by the McKinsey Global Institute, nearly half of the activities performed by employees in today's global economy have the potential to be automated with technologies that are already available.

Yet, as is noted in a separate analysis released by OC Pathways in partnership with the Orange County Business Council, some jobs will continue to thrive based on the high degree of creative intelligence they require, including civil engineers, lawyers, landscape architects and physicists. Skills such as active learning and complex-problem solving will continue to be in high demand.

In 1965, engineer and businessman Gordon Moore, who would later co-found Intel, famously predicted that computer processing would double about every two years as we figured out how to pack more and more transistors onto a single circuit.

Five decades later, what's known as Moore's Law remains a relevant trajectory. Yet as Moore's own philanthropy will attest, the human experience is not defined merely by our ability to exponentially increase processing power. With education as a key driver, mankind's success will instead hinge on our ability to marry technology with creativity to meet human needs.

It was fitting, then, that the latest OC Pathways Showcase would take place at Edwards Lifesciences, a leading medical equipment company that is literally saving lives with artificial heart valves and innovative techniques for delivering them.

"Our job is to see what's coming," Edwards Lifesciences Vice President of Advanced Technology Jinny Lee told the gathered crowd.

The same can be said of our educational systems, which are increasingly reaching out to industry partners to prepare students to meet an array of human needs, including those we can't yet envision.

This is not easy work, but it is essential. And it's arguably never been a more exciting time to be an educator.





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