

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE January 2018



We hope you had a great start to 2018! I hope you enjoyed the holidays with your family and friends. We have some exciting school events coming up in 2018 and hope to see you at them. Please visit our calendar events on the website [www.hillside93.org](http://www.hillside93.org)

## Annual Review Meeting for the Hillside School District Strategic Plan 2016-2021

The Hillside School District 93 began implementing a Strategic Plan during the 2016-2017 school year. This plan is the foundation for our initiatives and action plan for the next five years. The plan encompasses five (5) Focus Areas: Finance, Facilities, Instruction and Programming, Community Engagement, and Human Resource. Each of these focus areas are outlined by goals and action items

The Hillside School District 93 Strategic Plan is reviewed on an annual basis to determine the progress being made in each of the focus areas. We will hold our annual update meeting on **Saturday, March 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** At this annual update meeting, the Administrative Team and Board of Education will lead participants in small group discussions on the progress on the five focus areas of the strategic plan.

We are looking for parents/guardians to join our Strategic Planning Committee, if you are interested please contact Mrs. Velasquez at 708-449-6490 x7104.

## Student Recognition

### *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest*

Hillside students were invited to participate in the Hillside Human Relations Commission and Village of Hillside annual essay contest honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Students in K-8 wrote an original essay based on the theme for the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast held on January 15, 2018.

This year's essay contest theme was 'Out of the Mountain of Despair, a Stone of Hope'. Students were asked to address the concern that shared by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that everyone should maintain some level of hope for society to begin to review everyone as equals, with the same access to opportunities for success.

I would like to recognize the following students that were selected as a winner of this year's essay contest:

**Anderson Landfair**

**Adelaide Neelan**

**Sofia Ortiz**

### *Robotics Competition*

This year, all 8th Grade Hillside students are being offered a Robotics class. Students participate in a project-based curriculum that teaches the design process in an engaging, hands-on manner to help challenge, motivate, and inspire students. By moving students through an actual engineering project, students quickly understand the relevance of what they are learning.

In Robotics class, students walk through the design and build a mobile robot to play a sport-like game. During this process they will learn key STEM principles, and robotics concepts. At the culmination of the class, students will compete in a head-to-head Robotics Competition against their peers in the classroom.

Eighth grade students in the Semester 1 Robotics class, had the opportunity to qualify for the VEX IQ Challenge by participating in the Ringmaster game. Students formed groups of 3-4 people, designed

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and built their own custom robots having in mind that it needed to perform specific tasks. Each team had four minutes to score as many points as possible in the Ringmaster game. This game involved navigating their Robot to move and carry colored-coded rings to different locations on a pre-determined course. The team with the highest point total would represent Hillside Elementary School in the Illinois VEX IQ State Championship.

We would like to congratulate the following students that will be representing Hillside School at the March 10th Vex IQ State Competition in Bolingbrook:

**Vincent Bernal**                      **Antonio Allen**                      **Alex Mendez-Avalos**  
**Justin Conley**                      **Froylan Medina.**

## School Closing Information

The Infinite Campus system uses the student data base as its data base for phone numbers and email addresses. Therefore, it is vital that we have your correct information in case we need to reach families for school closings, etc.

**IMPORTANT:** please always plan for school to be open. If school is to be closed, we will notify families as soon as possible through Infinite Campus, social media, traditional media and our school and district web sites. Please do not call the district office or your school to find out if school is closing.

More Bad Weather/School Closing information including a letter from me is posted on the front page of the district's web site- [School Closing Information](#).

## Do you want to stay connected with Hillside School District 93?? Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

It is easy to stay connected with Hillside School and see all of the great things going on! *Hillside Facebook Page!!* If you have a Facebook account, please follow and like the Hillside School District 93 Facebook page!! <https://www.facebook.com/Hillside-School-District-93-2211345189091878/?rf=349701091738138>

*Twitter!!!*

We now have a twitter account and you can follow us at @HillsideD93. Please click on the link to learn how to sign up for a Twitter account <https://goo.gl/BTY1MW>

Yours in Education,  
Dr. Kevin L. Suchinski