**IT WORKS!!!!** On Friday January 17th the Devildroids robot base finally moved under its own power with co-captain Victor Tellez at the control joysticks. This is a huge step in the right direction for the team.

An operational robot base was a great way to end a long week in which the team had spent many hours to complete the Power Distribution and Control board and assemble a bumper system. Mr. McLeod from Hauppauge once again stopped by to give the team guidance when questions arose about the number of motors to incorporate and how to approach some technical issues.

Once Cole Blackburn, Andres Perez and the rest of the electronics crew completed the Control Board it was tested and then temporarily mounted to the base frame where the robot’s mechanical assemblies were exercised while elevated on the sturdy cart designed by Thomas Kouttron and built by Thomas, James Sosa, Ben Hebert and the structural design team.

The team’s many hours of brainstorming and design analysis have paid off and a consensus was reached about what position our robot will play in the Aerial Assist game. We will design a “goalie”.

Many experienced teams are electing to pick up and shoot the 2 ft diameter exercise ball through the 10ft high goal. The Devildroids realized this is a difficult
mission for a rookie team so the HHS robot will play defense. Multiple designs for a “shot blocking” mechanism have been drawn up and materials to prototype a few variations have been purchased. Consideration is also being given to base designs that will allow the robot to push the ball to a teammate or push an opposing player away from the goal.

Many of the students & parents asked questions – many more said they were excited to come to the High School and plan to join the Robotics team next year!

There are only 4 weeks left for the team to design, build, program, and test the goal tending abilities of the robot. As usual, the Devildroids will be working every evening (start time is usually 5pm) and invite anyone in the building to stop by our headquarters in the basement, say hello, and watch our progress.

The actual competition is March 28 & 29 at Hofstra University where the Devildroids will be hoping for a “sea of blue” support.

One of the many highlights of this past week was Wednesday night’s 8th grade orientation where many enthusiastic groups of students stopped by to watch the team working on the robot and learn about the competition.

The Devildroid News will be published weekly during the 6 week build cycle.