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Centennial Elementary students climb wall to help stamp out child trafficking

Olympia - Centennial Elementary students will put their climbing skills to work for children around the world at their 9th Annual "Climbing For Kids Competition," March 28 – 29 at Centennial Elementary School in Olympia, WA. Proceeds from the community fundraiser will benefit the Tronie Foundation, an Olympia-based non-profit organization working to end child trafficking.

The event will culminate in the Centennial student choir singing "[The Voice](#)," written by Jana Gedde, a music and physical education teacher at Centennial. "I hoped to write a song that would convey our students' dream that all children be free to live their life with a family that surrounds them with love and hope," said Gedde. "That's a concept our students can understand and sing about with passion!"

Students will ascend an indoor bouldering wall in the school's gymnasium that will be marked by colored tape to earn points. "Penny-a-Point" pledges are being gathered by student participants. Centennial staff and parents and Lacey Fire District 3 firefighters will be on hand to ensure the students' safety, and fun.

"Climbing for Kids is an awesome event which teaches our kids to think beyond the walls of Centennial and become global citizens of the world," said Centennial principal, Alice Drummer. "We are delighted to support The Tronie Foundation this year!"

Troni Foundation co-founder Rani Hong is a Centennial parent and a child trafficking survivor-turned-advocate who has worked to end modern-day slavery. As a child living in India, Hong was kidnapped from her family and sold into slavery at the age of seven by a woman who promised her parents that she would receive an education.

"This is why I'm driven to tell my story today," said Hong, "There are millions of other individuals, like that little girl I was — imprisoned, enslaved, and silenced — unable to tell their stories. I speak for those without a voice. And I'm so proud and excited to be joined by these active, enthusiastic kids at Centennial who have committed to help others around the world."

To view a video of last year's Climbing for Kids event, visit [here](#).

For more information about this year's event and The Tronie foundation visit [here](#).

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