**Letter to Parents**

**{Insert date here}**

Dear students and parents,

We are excited to inform you that your student’s classroom will be participating on a team at Leap’s 34th Annual Sandcastle Classic. The event will take place on **October 15, 2016 from 11a.m. – 4p.m. at Ocean Beach in San Francisco**. The theme is “Makers and Movers: The people and things that move us.” Our team is called {insert your team name} and will consist of: {insert school and name of offices and team website here}.

The Sandcastle Classic is a fundraiser to support Leap’s art education programs, and admission is free to schools who participate as well as the general community. Leap is a non-profit organization that brings arts education programs into classrooms all over the Bay Area. Please see the event fact sheet included on the second page for more information.

Team members from the building industry and other corporations fundraising for Leap and will visit your student’s classroom prior to the event. The team members will lead your student's classroom in the development of a sandcastle design their team will build at Ocean Beach on the day of the event. The entire team, including the students, {insert if families can participate in the castle building} will participate in building the sandcastle on a 20’ x 20’ plot of sand. Lunch and supplies will all be provided by the team members. Food trucks and raffle prizes will also be available at the event (please bring cash if you’d like to take advantage of either). We’ve also attached the event schedule as well as checklist of things to bring to the beach on the day of the Sandcastle Classic.

Please complete the **Parent/Guardian Consent Form included as the final page of this packet** and return to your classroom prior to the event.

If you have any questions regarding the team, please contact your teacher or {insert an Partner School Liaison or Team Captain’s name and contact}. If you have questions about Leap, please contact the organization at sandcastle@leaparts.org or (415) 512-1899. More information is also available at [www.leapsandcastleclassic.org](http://www.leapsandcastleclassic.org)

Thank you for participating in this event! We promise it will be a memorable day, and look forward to seeing you on the beach,

Thanks,

{Insert your Leap Sandcastle Team name}

**Sandcastle Classic Fact Sheet**

**About the Sandcastle Classic**:

Teams of architects, engineers, contractors, designers, corporations, and local elementary school students work together to build giant sand sculptures. The funds raised by teams and sponsors make it possible for Leap to continue to provide arts programs to Bay Area students.

* Thousands of people attend Leap’s annual Sandcastle Classic, which is free to the community.
* The event is covered by regional print and online media, and celebrity judges evaluate the final sand sculptures.
* More than 25 local schools and 300 donating companies and advertisers participate.
* In 2015, the top team raised over $42,800.

**About Leap | Arts in Education:**

Leap was established in 1979 in response to severe budget cuts in arts programs in California schools. These cuts continue to affect arts education in our schools today, and the need for high-quality arts programs is now greater than ever. Leap’s programs place professional teaching artists in classrooms to work with grades K-5. Every year, these educational programs in music, dance, theatre, creative writing, visual arts, and architecture serve over 6,000 students in more than 25 elementary schools throughout the Bay Area.

Through Leap’s extended arts residencies, children build skills that are conducive to success in

21st-century skills:

* Creativity, entrepreneurialism and inventiveness
* Critical thinking and cognitive skills
* Ability to set goals, experiment, solve problems and learn from mistakes
* Acceptance of diversity and differing viewpoints
* Ability to work collaboratively

**Checklist for Parents**

**Sandcastle Classic Schedule**

10:00am: Site prep team members arrive

10-10:30am: Students arrive

11am: Sandcastle building begins

11am - 3pm: Raffle prizes awarded

12pm: Lunch break and Sandcastle Stage performances begin

3pm: Sandcastle building finishes

3:30pm: Awards ceremony and team photos

4pm: Event ends

**General information**

* Please return the consent form on the following page to your teacher. This allows us to include your student and provide them with a t-shirt and lunch.
* Event location is located at Ocean Beach between the Cliff House and Balboa Street. Our team’s specific site number on the beach will be assigned in October. Your classroom teacher will be in touch about the sign assignment then. Please check [www.leapsandcastleclassic.org](http://www.leapsandcastleclassic.org) in October for more detailed directions to our team’s site.
* **Parent Parking**: Please try to carpool with other members of your school. Student drop off area will be provided in the lot at the end of Balboa. You can drop off your student then find additional parking elsewhere. You will not be able to park in this parking lot.
* Parents/school will be responsible for transportation to and from the event.
* Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Leap tent on the day of the event. Prizes to be given out all day.
* Community Castles will serve as areas where members from the public can drop in and help build a sandcastle.

**Safety Information**

* Each team will have a designated Water Guard who will prevent students from going near the water. Water Guards wear a special shirt so that they can be spotted easily.
* There will be NO SWIMMING ALLOWED.

**Things to Bring**

* Shoes that cover your feet, sunscreen, hat, beach towels, and warm layers.
* Extra clothes and shoes (if needed when you get wet), water in a water bottle.
* While lunch will be provided, please bring additional lunch and/or snacks as needed.

**Parent/Guardian Consent Form**

*Complete this page and return to your classroom teacher:*

**Name of Child:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**School:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Emergency Contact Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Emergency Contact Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, grant permission for my child,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

       Name of parent/guardian                                                                    Name of child

to participate in this year’s Leap Sandcastle Classic event held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at Ocean Beach in San Francisco.

As the parent or legal guardian of this child, by signing this form, I do hereby give permission to Leap to use this student’s photograph or photographic image in official Leap business, including web sites, newsletters and newspapers, brochures, etc.

In addition, I hereby grant to Leap and assigns, those acting with its authority and permission, the irrevocable and unrestricted right and permission to copyright, use, and publish these photographs. It is agreed that the use of these photographs shall in no way be used in any other forum other than for official business of the Leap organization.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of parent/guardian**                                    **Date**

Will you or other members of your family be joining us for the event?

If so, please list their names here:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_