



Letter to Parents

Dear Sandcastle parents,

We are excited to inform you that your student's classroom will be participating on a team at Leap's 44rd Annual Sandcastle Classic on **October 24th, 2026, from 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Ocean Beach in San Francisco**. This year's theme is "Bay Area Vibes".

Our team will consist of students from [redacted] with in-class visits from team members of [redacted].

The Sandcastle Classic is a fundraiser to support Leap's art education programs, and admission is free to schools that 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 are fundraising for Leap and will visit your student's classroom before the event. The team members will lead your student's classroom in the development of a sandcastle design, which the team will build on the event day.

The entire team, including the students, and families, will participate in building the sandcastle on a 20' x 20' plot of sand. Lunch will be provided by the organizing team.

We've also attached the event schedule as well as a checklist of things to bring to the beach on the day of the Sandcastle Classic.

Please complete the **Permission Form included in this packet** and return it to your classroom teacher before the event. **ALL SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE LISTED ON THE INFO PAGE.**

If you have any questions regarding the team, please contact Mark Young (markayoung@hntb.com). 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

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

Warm regards,

Mark Young



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. The money raised by each Sandcastle team will not be awarded to the partner school on their team. Instead, funds raised go towards helping Leap provide arts education programs to schools like yours around the Bay Area.

- 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 500 donating companies and advertisers participate.

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 8,500 students in more than 30 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



Info for Parents

Sandcastle Classic Schedule

8:am - 10am: Adult team members arrive
10-10:30 am: Students arrive
11 am: Sandcastle building begins
12 pm: Lunch break
2:30 pm: Sandcastle building ends
3 pm: Awards ceremony
3:30 pm: Event ends

General information

- Please return the Permission Form on the following page to your teacher.
- The event location is located at Ocean Beach at 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 signed assignment then. Please check 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 and then find additional parking elsewhere.
- Parents/schools will be responsible for transportation to and from the event. Leap will not provide transportation for students or team members.
- Community Castles will serve as areas where members of the public can drop in and help build a sandcastle.

Safety Information

- **CLASSROOM SESSIONS:** All Leap Employees and Volunteers who agree to work or visit schools on-site must follow and adhere to all safety protocols set forth by that district.
- 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.
- Students on the team will receive a Sandcastle t-shirt they must wear on beach day to make them easily identifiable.

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.



Permission 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, _____ to participate in this year's Leap Sandcastle Classic event held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Ocean Beach in San Francisco at the Intersection with Balboa Street.

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 the official Leap business, including websites, newsletters, newspapers, and brochures.

In addition, I hereby grant to Leap and assign, 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? No

If so, please list their names here:
