

Martin Luther King once said, “Everybody can be Great, Because Anybody Can Serve”

The partnership between California School for the Deaf and Apple came to fruition after several months of discussion and planning. Believe it or not, a whopping 730 volunteers came to the California School for the Deaf on Martin Luther King Day to make our campus beautiful. The school is already enjoying the outcome of a great volunteer service effort by the CSD Community (students, families, staff, and community members) and Apple employees.



Volunteers got the opportunity to watch inspiring presentations in honor of Martin Luther King Day. Special thanks to our presenters:

- **Sam Holden** – National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) Vice President
- **Lynnette Williams** – Bay Area Black Deaf Advocates (BABDA) Vice President
- **Melvin Patterson** – Deaf Community Member
- **Zahra Chauhan & Raven Lynch** – CSD student representatives from the Ebony Club

A surprise visitor attended the event – a man known by millions around the world! Apple CEO Tim Cook took a tour of the campus and helped volunteers plant trees along the way. We were impressed with how carefully he listened to every detail we told him about our school. Tim Cook even tweeted about us after the event!

Here are just a few highlights of the over 30 projects we accomplished on MLK Day all thanks to Apple and the numerous volunteers who helped out that day...

- Rebuilt the farm that CSD uses for teaching purposes and growing food for our culinary school. Volunteers constructed 15 redwood raised planter boxes and installed 600 square feet of vegetables (spinach, swiss chard, braising greens, bok choy, and potatoes), herbs (oregano, thyme, parsley and cilantro), and pollinator plants that will provide color and encourage and enhance pollination of vegetables and fruit trees
- Built an orchard with nine fruit trees that teachers, students and the culinary school will make use of.
- Redesigned the BBQ area with patio tables, chairs, umbrellas, and new landscaping to make it more open and inviting for school events and graduations.
- Upgraded the computer lab with ergonomic desks, desk chairs and conference room furnishings, along with new mice and keyboards for the iMacs. Added a flat panel display and Apple TV for teaching purposes.

- Completely repainted the inside of the Student Health Unit and added Wi-Fi and TV carts for the four student patient rooms. Each cart was equipped with a flat panel, Blu Ray player, and Apple TV to keep students and parents occupied while they heal. The patient rooms were beautifully upgraded with new bedding, artwork and books for the students. The Apple AV team installed a display in the lobby waiting room. An Apple employee, Ferenc Besze, who is a well renowned painter, donated two of his original watercolors to the Student Health Center.
- Cleaned and refreshed the landscaping that surrounds the high school and middle school cottages. Added outdoor furniture and BBQ's for the students to use.
- Hand washed the school vehicles, both inside and out, and painted and added new netting to the outdoor basketball courts.

Some of the projects accomplished on Martin Luther King Day will have long-lasting benefits for the school. We converted over 15,000 square feet (1/3 of an acre) of high water use lawns to drought tolerant landscape. This will save an estimated annual water savings of approximately 400,000 gallons per year. The California Native Garden pathway will create habitat for local fauna and attract pollinators to assist in pollination of nearby vegetable plants and fruits trees.

Special thanks to all of the CSD staff, students, families, and community, along with the Apple volunteers who came to participate that day!