PETRI MARCH NEWSLETTER 2026

Story by Kira Lackland, on behalf of PETRI
Vice President of Communications

Scholarship Selection

In January, all members of PETRI met with the Girls to Girls club from our sister school, Vashon High School, at Mercer Island High School. Thanks to your overwhelming support, we raised nearly $45,000, which went directly toward student scholarships. The impact of these life-changing donations is incredible, and we are extremely grateful.

With these funds, we carefully reviewed hundreds of applications during our eight-hour scholarship selection meeting. After thoughtful deliberation, we are proud to share that **156 students are receiving SeaVuria scholarships this year**.

During the scholarship selection process, we also collected donations of books and underwear to bring to students during our visit. None of this would have been possible without your support and the dedication of our club members. Thank you!

During mid-winter break, a delegation of 16 students traveled to Kenya to meet many of the scholars and help launch the **2026 scholarship program**, beginning relationships that will continue throughout the year.



Delegation Trip to Kenya

From **February 11–22**, 16 girls from PETRI and Girls to Girls traveled with five chaperones on a delegation trip to Taita Taveta, Kenya. During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet scholars, sit in on classes, visit students' homes, and experience daily life in the community.

These experiences were part of a meaningful cultural exchange, where both our delegates and the sponsored scholars learned from one another. The trip not only helped our delegates deepen their global perspective, but also strengthened their understanding of the importance of education, opportunity, and community.

We are excited to share our journey with you through photos captured along the way!

Highlights from Our Trip

Safaris

Each morning, delegates had the opportunity to go on safari and experience Kenya's incredible wildlife. The hotel also featured a watering hole and elevated rooms that attracted animals right outside. We saw elephants, lions, buffalo, zebras, and more!







Field Day



A celebration bringing scholars from all ten SeaVuria schools together.

On Field Day, scholars from all 10 of our schools joined us for a fun day of team games, friendly competition, lots of laughter, and bonding.



Schools: ***Delegates visited classrooms and homes to learn about daily life in Taita.***

Three days in Kenya were dedicated to visiting the schools supported by SeaVuria. Each school held assemblies where students and families shared dances and songs to express their gratitude and celebrate their culture.

After the assemblies, scholars and delegates gathered in small groups to talk about global women's empowerment, share messages from their pen pals in Seattle, and bond while making crafts.



(Ngami scholars showcasing a traditional dance)



(Students opening letters from their penpals)



(Delegates in front of Vuria Mountain)

Taita Taveta University: ***Students explored elephant DNA and conservation through hands-on STEM learning.***

One day of the delegation was dedicated to working with Form 4 students (seniors) at Taita Taveta University. Together, they explored STEM through a DNA analysis unit developed by the Science Education Partnership at the Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center. Using gel electrophoresis, students learned how scientists analyze elephant DNA to help track ivory and combat elephant poaching.

Students also heard from a female game warden, a rare role for women in wildlife conservation, who shared about her career path and spoke about women's empowerment.



(Students hypothesizing and researching elephant DNA patterns)



(Students then using a micro pipette to load DNA samples into a gel)

Women's Reproductive Health: Open conversations about health, dignity, and supporting girls in school.

In the middle of the week, our delegates and scholars engaged in meaningful conversations about menstruation and women's reproductive health. Together, they explored the similarities and differences in how these important topics are understood and discussed in their cultures.

After these conversations, students worked side by side to sew reusable pads to help address period poverty and support girls in staying in school.







Home and Classroom Visits

During each school visit, delegates had the opportunity to either sit in on a class or walk with a scholar to visit her home. They observed classes such as mathematics, chemistry, biology, and physics.

During the home visits, delegates gained a deeper understanding of the daily lives of the girls we sponsor. Seeing where they live, meeting their families, and hearing their stories made the experience personal and reminded us why access to education matters so much.





What we saw and learned during our time in Kenya reminded us why this work matters so much.

Women's Health and Education

In Taita Taveta, Kenya, many girls lack reliable access to menstrual health supplies. This affects girls in our own SeaVuria schools and can cause them to miss class or fall behind in their education.

This month, PETRI and Girls to Girls are launching a campaign to support girls' reproductive health, dignity, and education. Your donation helps provide menstrual supplies so girls can stay in school, protect their health, and continue building their futures.

We invite you to join us. Your support helps ensure that every girl has the opportunity to stay in school, care for her health, and pursue the future she deserves.

Her health. Her education. Her future.



In the News

Recently, PETRI was featured in *Greet Magazine*! The article highlights our leadership team, our work to empower girls around the world, and the impact our club is making. We invite you to read the article to learn more about our mission.

On behalf of our entire club, thank you for your continued support. Because of you, we are able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of girls through the power of education.

Follow us on:

- Instagram
- Linkedin

Here's How to Support our Work:

Visit us at www.seavuria.org/donate