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## Keith student to raise money and awareness for cancer research

**ROCKFORD, IL** – It is unfortunate, but cancer is a universal connector. Everyone has a story of how cancer affected their life; whether it is their mom, uncle, neighbor, best friend or son. Keith Country Day School senior, Gina Pernaciaro, is well aware of the impact cancer can have which is one of the reasons she has worked tirelessly on Sporting for the Cure.

Organized by Pernaciaro as a senior project, and assisted by Josh Pelayo, Sporting for the Cure is a fundraiser/awareness event on behalf of leukemia, breast and ovarian cancer.

"I wanted my senior project to be about raising money and awareness for cancer research because I have known too many people who have been affected by a form of the disease," said Pernaciaro. "Sporting for the Cure is an opportunity to make a difference."

Sporting for the Cure will take place on Friday, January 15 from 4 to 8 p.m., in the Keith Country Day School gym. The event asks students, parents and friends to sign up and challenge one of the school's varsity teams in a fun exhibition game. Each team (and game) will represent a different form of cancer with the participants outfitted in uniforms and t-shirts matching the official color of the disease they represent.

The soccer game, featuring the same roster of players who competed in the Class A state finals, will showcase the color orange (on behalf of leukemia) and consist of one 45 minute indoor game.

The basketball game, featuring the girl's varsity, will showcase the color teal (on behalf of ovarian cancer), and consist of two 12-minute halves.

The volleyball game, featuring the girl's varsity, will showcase the color pink (on behalf of breast cancer) and consist of one game to 35.

Cost to attend is \$6 for students and adults, and \$4 for senior citizens. To play in one of the games, the cost is \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. In addition to the fun exhibition games, the event will also include a silent auction of student artwork and colored blankets as well as some items/services generously donated by several local businesses. All of the proceeds raised at the event will be split and directed to the each disease's local chapter.

Keith Country Day School is an independent, nonsectarian, college-preparatory school founded by Belle Emerson Keith in 1916. Located on a 15-acre campus overlooking the Rock River, Keith serves students from age three through grade 12 from the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin area. The school is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and fully-accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. More information about Keith School is available at [Keithschool.com](http://Keithschool.com)

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