

Fallon Murphy

New teen Arctic ambassador

by Susan Wolf

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Fallon Murphy knows about polar bears and what can be done to help save them. As Fairfield County's new teen Arctic ambassador, Fallon will be sharing her knowledge with others throughout the county.

Fallon, a rising junior who is homeschooled, was selected by the Gault-Polar Bears International (PBI) Alliance for the ambassador's post. She took part in the alliance's Fairfield County Leadership Camp Competition, a green teen competition. Fallon was selected for her new post after writing a winning essay and being interviewed by a selection committee.

As the new ambassador, she will be going to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, this fall to explore the subarctic polar bear habitat while attending a leadership camp.

"I'll be talking with leading scientists and photographers about the polar bears' plight, and will take classes on how to express the issues properly," said an enthusiastic Fallon. She will be attending the camp with a group of fellow Leadership Camp winners from around the world.

Fallon has already made her public debut as an Arctic ambassador. On July 8 at Camp Mahackeno, she hosted a Polar Bear Empathy Day

to educate more than 200 campers, ages 5 to 12, about global warming, the plight of the polar bear and how they and their families may reduce their carbon footprint to help save the bears' habitat.

"It went better than I thought it would," said Fallon about her public speaking debut.

However, Fallon is no stranger to being in the public eye. She has performed with the PLP Theater Group in Fairfield. She played the role of Juliet in a production of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

As a member of the Fairfield County Children's Choir, Fallon has also performed at Carnegie Hall, and at Avery Fisher Hall with the Ridgefield Symphony Youth Orchestra, where she plays the flute.

She has additionally performed in the Follies in Fairfield, where she sang and danced.

"While I'm used to performing, I'm not used to impromptu [performances] before an audience," said Fallon. "I was nervous at first, but it got easier once I was up there and got to know the crowd."

Fallon is familiar with Polar Bear International and its goals. Last year Fallon, her older brother Patrick, and Caitlin Taylor, who are both Joel Barlow High School students, won first prize in

Project Polar Bear's "Green Teen" competition in Fairfield County.

Project Polar Bear is a national competition that rewards students for discovering ways to reduce global warming, and is also co-sponsored by the Polar Bears International Alliance and Gault, a Westport energy company.

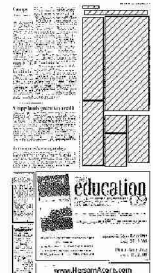
The teens' Operation Bus Stop project was aimed at reorganizing Barlow bus routes to reduce carbon emissions.

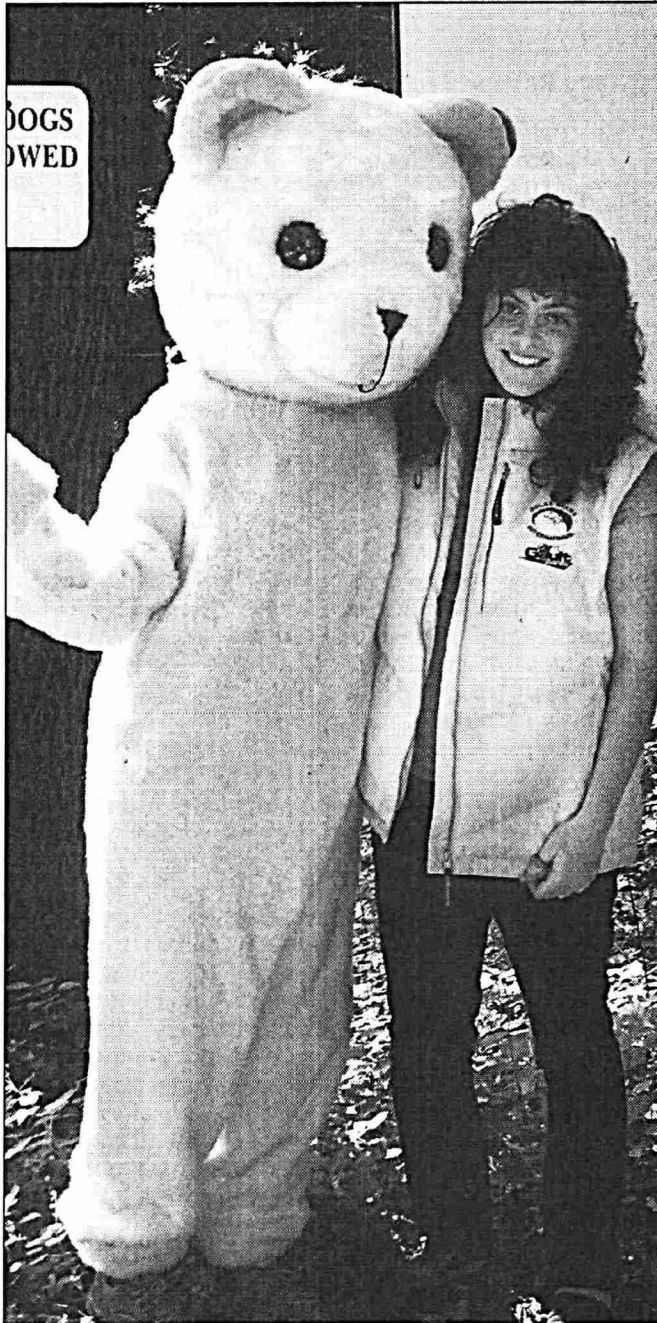
Fallon's other interests include her membership with the National Charity League, a mother and daughter organization, where she is president of the 11th graders. She is also a member of High School Apostles, which she described as being like a Catholic youth group.

"We get information out to people to become more active in their faith. We do outreach programs," said Fallon about the group.

She belongs to NCFCA, a speech and debate organization as well. This summer she is working as an intern reporter at The Redding Pilot.

Fallon is the daughter of Bridgetté and Tom Murphy. Besides her brother Patrick she has another brother, Joseph, who will be in eighth grade at the middle school this year.





Fallon Murphy of Redding is Fairfield County's new teen Arctic ambassador. She is standing beside the Gault-Polar Bears International Alliance mascot, Polar Paulie.