

# East Aurora School District 131

## NEWS RELEASE

Clayton Muhammad  
630.299.5550 (office)  
630.774.9306 (media cell)  
630.299.5500 (fax)  
cmuhammad@d131.org  
www.d131.org

*Making Choices for Excellence*

Sunday, February 28, 2010

### **AUTHOR OF 'THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SKY' VISITS EAST HIGH THIS WEEK**

(Aurora)- Her story is one of courage and conviction that will inspire anyone who dares to dream. **Author Farah Ahmedi Hassan** will share her story with students at East Aurora High School this week.

On **Tuesday, March 2 at 1:15 p.m.** in the **East High Hawks Auditorium**, Farah Hassan, author of *The Other Side of the Sky*, will detail her life from war in Afghanistan to peace in America. Her book, *The Other Side of the Sky*, has been the all-school reading selection for students and staff at East High since September.

Farah Ahmedi Hassan was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. When she was in second grade, she stepped on a land mine while taking a shortcut through a field to school. Farah was transferred to Germany where her leg was amputated. After over eighteen months in Germany, she returned to her home in Kabul. Shortly after she returned home, her father and sisters were killed by a stray rocket. Fearing for their lives, Farah and her mother fled to Pakistan where they endured harsh conditions in refugee camps for a couple years before World Relief rescued them and provided them a home in Chicago, Illinois in America. *The Other Side of the Sky* is an account of this inspiring journey.

One book reviewer stated, "*Farah is living proof that not only can the human heart endure, it can also thrive. Even in war, there are miracles. Even when limbs are amputated, we are whole. Even in refugee camps, dreams come true. Even when fathers and siblings die young, there is love.*"

"*The book was selected to show how to overcome obstacles and trials. It is a relatable book to anyone who has come through difficult times and found their way. We are excited to have her speak at East High,*" said Gail Dart and Laurie Mathis, Literacy Coaches at East Aurora High School.

East Aurora High School is located at 500 Tomcat Lane in Aurora.