Dear Eagle Families,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed Principal of Underwood Elementary School for the 2014-2015 school year. I am thrilled to begin the new school year at Underwood, and look forward to meeting students, staff, parents, and community members. I have already had the opportunity to meet several of you, and your Eagle Pride has been such a wonderful thing to experience. It is obvious that this school is a unique place. I am so happy to be a part of it.

This transition is a homecoming for me as I am returning to the Lee’s Summit School District, my beloved community. I started my career in education as a classroom teacher at Cedar Creek Elementary and Longview Farm Elementary before beginning my journey in administration. After leaving Lee’s Summit, I served as an Upper Elementary Assistant Principal in the Belton School District for three years. My most recent administrative experience has been shaped by three years of successful leadership as an Elementary Principal in the Raytown School District. My return to Lee’s Summit begins my seventh year as an elementary school administrator, and I am elated to bring my skills as an educational leader to your son/daughter’s school and to work with you as a partner in education to ensure your child's success.

As I make this important transition to Underwood, I am aware of the anticipation and eagerness that accompanies new leadership in any organization. It is expected and understandable. I know that change can provoke both excitement and anxiety. It is my goal to spend my first several months learning about our school and all of its stakeholders. I eagerly anticipate getting to know the UWE community, and learning about your hopes and dreams for our school. I believe that genuine collaboration fosters ownership of a rich school culture. Supporting our kids to do well at school, and in their personal lives, is the center of the work we do as a school family. I am honored to have been selected to serve this community, and I will work hard to gain your trust and respect as the Underwood principal.

Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself to me. I will be in and out of the building throughout the month of July, and I will also be available during student enrollment (July 30: 12:00PM-7:00PM and July 31: 8:00AM-4:00PM). My husband, Shaun, and I have a one year old son, Kamden, who will be keeping us busy these last couple weeks of summer. I think we are going to take part in some “stay-cation” activities throughout Kansas City such as visiting the zoo, swimming pool, Lego Land, and maybe even Great Wolf Lodge to wrap up our 2014 summer. I hope all of you get to enjoy some quality time together this summer with your precious families. I look forward to meeting you and expanding my school family as an Underwood Elementary Eagle!

Sincerely, Dr. Anna McGraw