



The Past, Present and Future of Amy Belle

By Tracy Baumann

If you have driven by Amy Belle, you'll notice there's hardly an area untouched with building projects making room for—what seems like the ever expanding—student body population. There are many new things happening, like creating an actual lunchroom that doesn't double as a gymnasium.

It's safe to say when an individual, couple or family chooses a place to live there are boxes to check off. For some, those reasons are generational. For many others—hence the expansion of Amy Belle—there are many things that draw people to a location.

There are lots of reasons to love the Colgate area: live the country life, yet not be too far off the grid; friendly people that share a common goal of living their best life; and last but not least—quality schools.

History of Amy Belle

A school named after a person makes you wonder who was this person and what is the significance of the school name to the building. For Amy Belle school, the history begins in 1855 on the property of what is now Zion United Methodist Church. The one-room log building was known as District 5 school at the time.

In 1876, Charles Motz sold an adjoining half acre of land for \$50 for the purpose of building a school. The Motz homestead is still standing next door to the current school. The brick school was built on the land in 1877, with an upper and lower classroom.

In the 1840s, Mr. Richard Lillicrap was granted land around the present day Amy Belle Lake. In the 1880s, Mr. Lillicrap's property was sold after he passed, by his son, to a Mr. A.H. Hadfield. Mr. Hadfield, a lumbering, quarrying family, made the area his summer home.

He named the lake after his daughter, Amy Belle, who died in infancy. About five years later, another daughter was named Amy Belle. Since nobody knew where District 5 was, they renamed the school after the lake to better define its location.

In 1964 Amy Belle became part of the Germantown School District. A picture of Amy Belle Hadfield Blair hangs in the office at the school today.

Throughout the 164 years of Amy Belle school and previous District 5 School, there have been many changes, additions

and growth. A wonderful and rewarding part of that growth is attributed to community and parent volunteering.

Present Day at the School

In current day, organized volunteering is necessary to keep moving forward and live our best life as a community and school community. And there is one vital area that currently needs community help—the school playground.

The playground is old and in need of expensive repairs. It is no longer adequate for the growth of the community it serves. The Amy Belle PTA is fundraising to build a safe and inclusive playground for the kids now and many years into the future.

There are many ways to help should you choose to do so.

- “Like” Amy Belle PTA on Facebook to get updates on the newest information on our progress and ways to donate.
- Call the school if you would like more information or to find out how to have your name added on a leaf of our giving tree.

The Future of Amy Belle

With the community's help, our playground will be able to serve the entire community for many generations to come.

