SOUTH BEND COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

215 South St. Joseph Street South Bend, Indiana 46601
Telephone (574) 283-8000

November 7, 2011 Contact: Sue Coney, 283-8145

Statement to Media regarding Tramelle Sturgis

South Bend Community School Corporation and Madison Primary Center have experienced the death of one of our fourth grade children, Tramelle Sturgis. Tramelle's tragic death has deeply affected the staff and students.

Tramelle attended Madison Primary Center since first grade. A few comments from teachers at Madison include:

- "He played like a champion every day."
- "He took his academics very seriously, but enjoyed school very much."
- "He made friends very easily."
- "He would never be a bully."
- "He had a big, beautiful smile."
- "He was nice to everyone."
- "He was a wonderful brother and took care of his siblings."
- "He had a huge heart."
- "He loved school and was very hard working."
- "He was an outstanding artist. He liked to stand up when he worked on his art projects and rock side to side."

Special counseling services have been made available to the children and staff today at Madison Primary Center, and will continue to be available throughout the week and longer, if needed. Staff and students are wearing blue ribbons to honor Tramelle. Classmates are also writing letters to Tramelle and leaving them in his locker.

A letter will be sent home to Madison parents today from their principal. The letter let parents know that if their child or family needs any assistance, that they should contact the school.

# # #