

Local students learn important safety lesson



by Englewood Independent on December 22, 2011

Photo submitted

Englewood's School Resource Officer Corey Follick teaching the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program to Mrs. Maiken and Mrs. Gaylor's second grade classes at Englewood Elementary.

If you have visited Englewood, Englewood Hills, Northmoor or O.R. Edgington elementary schools during the last few weeks, you may have heard a catchy jingle being said (or sung) by many of the schools' first, second or third grade students.

For the second consecutive school year, Englewood's School Resource Officer secured a grant, provided by "Friends of NRA," which provides for all instructional materials used in the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program.

The purpose of the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program isn't to teach whether guns are good or bad, but rather to promote the protection and safety of children. The program makes no value judgments about firearms, and no firearms are ever used in the program. Like swimming pools, electrical outlets, matchbooks and household poisons, they're treated simply as a fact of everyday life. With firearms found in about half of all American households, it's an approach that makes sense. Eddie Eagle is never shown touching a firearm, and he does not promote firearm ownership or use. The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program has no agenda other than accident prevention — ensuring that children stay safe should they encounter a gun. The program never mentions the NRA. Nor does it encourage children to buy guns or to become NRA members.

Through the use of an animated, 7-minute video featuring Eddie Eagle, student workbooks, parent brochures and a student reward sticker, students are taught the simple, easy-to-remember rules to follow if they see a gun: STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult. Officer Follick reinforces these rules by speaking with students about the difference between toys and

weapons and about who children can trust as adults in our homes, neighborhoods, schools and community.

Begun in 1988, the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program has reached more than 21 million children — in all 50 states. This program was developed through the combined efforts of such qualified professionals as clinical psychologists, reading specialists, teachers, curriculum specialists and law enforcement personnel. The Englewood Police Department is proud to be delivering this important safety message in our local schools.