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fifth and sixth grades, second in fourth, seventh and eighth grades.

In English Language Arts, it was almost a clean sweep as third, fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders finished first, and fifth graders finished second. Scores for all grade classes were greatly increased over the previous year, state records show.

In math, Union students dominated at the third, fourth, and fifth grade levels, finishing first in the region. The seventh grade class finished second in the region, and the eighth grade class finished third, up from eighth in 2012.

In science, Union third, fourth and fifth graders claimed top spots in the region.

Sixth and eighth graders finished third and the seventh grade finished fourth, up four spots from eighth a year ago.

In social studies, Union third, fourth, and sixth graders ruled, finishing first in region. Fifth graders finished second in the region, eighth graders finished third regionally, and the seventh grade finished fifth, state test scores show.

The 2013 CRCT results show more students are exceeding the standards than last year. Results also showed a

one-year improvement in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding on 20 of the 30 content-area tests.

"The best news in the 2013 CRCT report is that more of our students are exceeding the standards," said State School Superintendent Dr. John Barge. "Teachers are doing a great job teaching the more rigorous Georgia Performance Standards and they are to be applauded for raising expectations for all students."

"While I am pleased to see an increase in the majority of the exams, I am concerned about those where we saw decreases or no change at all,"

Dr. Barge said.

Georgia began teaching the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards in 2013.

The curriculum and the tests were more difficult from a year ago, Dr. Barge said.

"We must continue to focus on successfully implementing the new standards," Dr. Barge said.

"We have been offering, and will continue to offer, teachers the necessary professional development to ensure they are equipped to deliver these more rigorous standards and to prepare our students for the next step," he said.

Kids rule the waters at Vogel State Park

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More than 300 children ages 12 and under had the time of their lives on June 8th at Vogel State Park.

The occasion was the Annual Vogel State Park Kids Fishing Rodeo, and many a trout were caught.

The four-hour event brought parents, grandparents and children together for an event that will be stored in each one's memory banks for a lifetime.

Jakob Jorgensen, 5 years old, of Blairsville was all smiles as he reeled in a beautiful rainbow trout from the swift waters of Wolf Creek. Jakob gave a big thumbs up after he caught the colorful



Vogel State Park was the place to be for trout fishing on June 8th. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

trout.

Bryleigh Lands, 3 years old, of Blairsville was just as excited as she caught her first rainbow trout. She giggled with excitement as her mother helped her take the pan-size trout off her hook.

Jeffery Sanderlin, Kabree and Jada Palumbo and Sky McClure of Hiawassee also caught their share of rainbow trout.

Maycee Garrison of Hiawassee was thrilled to reel in her prize trout as the event once again proved a success.

After all, the purpose of the trout rodeo is to teach children to protect and conserve nature's resources, while at the same time, having fun.

Vogel's Kids Fishing

Rodeo is held each year on the second Saturday in June, from 8 a.m. - noon at Georgia's second oldest State Park, located 11 miles south of Blairsville on U.S Highway 129/11.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee, but, you can't buy smiles any cheaper than that.

Wolf Creek was stocked full of rainbow trout for the children to fish for on this day.

With the aid of their parents, several youngsters caught their limit of 8 trout. They also received a free "Gone Fishin'" T-shirt prior to the event.

There were some lucky ticket holders that received a prize.

The Park's staff and volunteers were on hand helping by giving out bait, baiting hooks, taking fish off, and giving out prizes.

Prizes are paid for by donations from local businesses.

For those children who didn't bring a fishing rod and reel, or bait, there was a limited supply of loaner rods/cane poles, corn and worms available.

The Park always urges anglers to bring their own rod and reels if possible. All fishing laws were followed.

"We want to teach the children to protect and conserve the resources while having fun," Park Superintendent Cliff Tippens said.

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autograph or personalize the books in person.

Jordan is one of only three modern-day athletes to play both professional football and baseball.

Braves' fans will remember the 1999 Division series in which Jordan seemingly carried his team with seven of the 18 home runs hit against the Houston Astros. His double off Astros' pitcher Mike Hampton (former Brave) won Game 3. Jordan finished that series with a .471 batting average.

In 2000, Jordan had Mets fans pulling out their hair when he crushed a pitch from closer John Franco in the 9th inning for a grand slam.

He retired from Major League Baseball in 2006. He was later honored as one of Sports Illustrated's Top 15 All-Time College Athletes.

Prior to his professional baseball days, Atlanta Falcons' fans remember Jordan as No. 40, the hard-hitting safety with 5 interceptions, 4 fumble recoveries, 2 safeties, and a few sacks under his belt.

Jordan was originally drafted by the Buffalo Bills in the 7th round of the 1989 NFL Draft out of Richmond. He was cut by the Bills at the end of training camp and, as a member of the Falcons' secondary, Jordan became part of one of the most feared NFL defensive backfields, that included *Primetime* Deion Sanders. Jordan led the Falcons in tackles in 1991.

Jordan is most widely seen these days as the co-host of Fox Sports' *Braves Live*, pre- and post-game television shows.

He's the founder of The Brian Jordan Foundation, which is the co-sponsor for the Game Face camps.

The Brian Jordan Foundation just awarded \$35,000 worth of scholarships to high school seniors from all over Georgia at Turner Field on June 3rd.

The mission of the foundation is to inspire and motivate children through literacy, scholarships, health and fitness.

"My athletic talent provided the pathway for me to obtain a college scholarship," Jordan said. "I was fortunate. My work through the foundation is to help children who might not have the same benefits I did by providing books that inspire them with their

content, and prompt them to read and love reading. Programs like Game Face camps help hone skills and build character so that we help to develop better athletes. Finally, we provide scholarships to high school seniors that demonstrate a desire to learn and give back and have a financial

need."

For more details about The Brian Jordan Foundation, or to purchase books visit <http://www.brianjordanfoundation.com>.

For details about Game Face Camps visit <http://www.gamefacesportscamps.com> or call (678) 448-7287.