EDULOG

DISCOVERING NEW PERSPECTIVES

EDULOGGER

THE MISSING ROUTER:
WHO IS THERE TO WORK THE LINES?
WRITTEN BY SPENCER JENKO

As the summer season approaches and school districts busy themselves with planning for the coming school year and beyond, many transportation departments are finding themselves shorthanded in a more unexpected area: routers.

Much of the focus over the last 5 years has been on the shortage of school bus drivers, which is understandable given that it is where the public directly feels the impact by a lack of workers. Parents and especially children must endure the consequences of buses running late, travel times increasing, substandard drivers being hired, and even services being suspended altogether. All these transportation factors create issues downstream for the public to endure.

But there is also a growing shortage of transportation workers who have the role and responsibility of managing the bus routes themselves. Routers and routing teams are part of the core structure in any effective transportation management department, utilizing software and databased management systems to prepare and implement bus runs and routes every school year. This includes not only the process of preparing routes for each start of the school year (fall, summer, etc.), but also their upkeep throughout the year as student trips are added, changed, and dropped from the schedule.

Ready to harness that New Year energy and make a change?
Interested in data to see how far you've come?

Click here to reach out to our Advisory Services Team

For smaller districts, these roles are only limited to a few job positions. But as the size of a school district scales, so too does the size and complexity of its student transportation. In response, the number of transportation department workers also grows to meet service demands. Special Needs, transfers, field trips, daytime shuttles, technical & evening programs, and more all add to the mountain of work that needs to be completed each day.

Public data is sparse on transportation departments, as this aspect of education rarely gets the analytical focus it deserves. But this most certainly is a growing trend noticed by Edulog staff and consultants over the past few years. Part of this may be driven by the ongoing tightened labor market across North America, leading to sustained attrition to department staff as they leave for other jobs. Another impact may be from school districts running into tightening budget restrictions, leading to freezes in staff hirings or even layoffs. It could also be some combination of factors, beyond what we've mentioned. Regardless, however, the outcome is still the same.

Districts facing these pain points are increasingly looking for ways to solve this new labor shortage, from restructuring their transportation departments to reducing the individual work burden, to increasing worker wages and benefits (if possible). But rearranging job roles and topping off the money tank can only accomplish so much, as workers simply aren't coming back to many of these industries.

So, what else can be done? One solution that school districts are increasingly turning towards is the use of a 3rd party to help them out- either during critical planning times, or throughout the school year. These professional services can include data and route management, automation and nightly updates, and even planning assistance for when the big changes are being proposed. Whatever a district can manage to outsource from their current responsibilities, they are considering if it means getting the job done and the buses ready to operate.

These approaches do come with their risks, most notably from the increasing reliance on a 3rd party to meet service requirements. But in many ways, this is an extension of the intertwining roles of the public and private education sectors, done primarily in the name of efficiency and necessity. And it is this latter point that can be the biggest reason for districts to reach out for help, especially in the case of the missing router.

EDULOG'S APPROACH TO GPS
WRITTEN BY DEVON MEIMERSTORF

Are you constantly fielding questions from family members wondering where their student's bus is (even if it's only running 5 minutes late)? Or do you need a more efficient way for your bus depot and mechanics to know where buses are that need to be serviced? Instead of having to be in constant contact with drivers to find these answers, a more straightforward solution is utilizing GPS on your buses, paired with one or more Edulog products.

GPS is becoming more and more popular within school transportation, and it's no wonder why. It's proven to be helpful for increasing efficiency of bus routes, live tracking buses, and is also a useful tool for parents, families, administrators, mechanics, and even the students themselves.

We'll focus on a different product in each Edulogger, and the first solution we'll highlight is Parent Portal, which has two versions – Lite and Full (and if you are licensed for Parent Portal, you have access to both). Parent Portal can be used with or without GPS or our tablet solution, though most districts opt to use it with GPS, so they can use the full benefits such as live tracking.

Parent Portal Lite allows users to follow one or more buses and set alert zones for when those buses approach a defined area such as your residence, the school, or in the case of district employees, a bus depot or service center.

Parent Portal Full adds the ability to follow individual students on their routes. But don't worry - to follow that student, users must input specific student information that only families would have. This is not open to the public, or open to other unapproved parents or families at the school. Some districts, whose families use Parent Portal Full, have school-based personnel using Parent Portal Lite so they can follow their school's buses and to get notified when buses arrive on campus. They follow the buses instead of individual students.

One of the most used features of Parent Portal by the districts is the messaging feature. Both versions of Parent Portal have messaging capabilities. Designated district employees can message all users, or just those following specific buses or routes, when there are changes to the schedule or when buses are running behind. This helps solve some of the questions posed at the beginning of this article – reducing how many phone calls you're fielding from families when their student's bus is a little late!

Stay tuned for upcoming Edulogger newsletters where we highlight additional GPS products! If you'd like to find out more information about Parent Portal, or other GPS solutions here at Edulog, please reach out to your Account Manager.

ASK ME ANYTHING
WRITTEN BY SHAWNA KNUDSON

As professionals, we often find ourselves entrenched in routines and relying on familiar approaches. However, by actively seeking out new viewpoints, we can unlock innovation, improve problem-solving, and drive success.

Education: The Gateway to New Perspectives

Whether formal or informal, continuous learning fuels growth. Reading widely allows you to dive into books, articles, and research beyond your comfort zone. Explore diverse genres, cultures, and historical contexts. Stay informed about industry trends, technological advancements, and best practices. Additionally, consider enrolling in online courses and workshops. Platforms like Coursera, edX, and Khan Academy offer courses on various subjects—whether it's art, science, philosophy, or coding. Invest time in skill development and master new tools, languages, or methodologies. Lastly, don't underestimate the power of travel and cultural immersion. Visiting new places exposes you to different lifestyles, traditions, and ways of thinking. Attend conferences, seminars, and meetups related to your field. Network with professionals from diverse backgrounds. Remember, continuous learning broadens your horizons and equips you with fresh insights for professional success!

Conversations with Fresh Insights

Engaging in meaningful dialogue with people from various backgrounds provides fresh perspectives. Actively listen—truly hear what others say. Ask questions, seek clarification, and empathize. Understand cultural nuances in cross-cultural communication; different languages and gestures convey unique viewpoints. Lastly, networking is essential. Attend conferences, seminars, and meetups related to your field. Connect with professionals from diverse backgrounds. Remember, these conversations foster collaboration and enrich your professional journey.

Challenging Assumptions: Unleashing Creativity

To break free from assumptions, ask the question "why" and challenge the status quo. Always consider whether there are better alternatives or more efficient methods. Imagine the opposite scenario—what if the norms were different? This exercise helps uncover hidden assumptions and encourages creative solutions. Challenging assumptions opens doors to innovative problem-solving.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Sparking Innovation

Collaborating with professionals outside your area of expertise should spark innovation. How? Gather a diverse team across many disciplines and have ideation sessions. Mix skills and brainstorm—you may find solutions emerging from different angles. Explore applying principles from unrelated domains, such as design thinking in software development or game theory in bus routing challenges.

Seeking Feedback: Refining Perspectives

Feedback acts as a mirror reflecting our own blind spots. Seek it by simply asking for constructive criticism and through peer review. Embracing new perspectives is a lifelong journey—an adventure worth embracing. It provides an environment for continuous learning, which, in turn, equips us to gracefully adapt in an ever-changing world. As you imagine life as a mosaic, collecting experiences, relationships, and insights, each new tile adds vibrancy to your journey.

STAFF UPDATES
WRITTEN BY JASMINE BROWN

Welcome aboard, Gin Cheatham! It's fantastic to have you join the Edulog team as our Administrative Assistant. Your diverse background and love for adventure will surely bring a refreshing perspective to our front office. Missoula is a beautiful place, and we're thrilled you've chosen to make it your home.

GIN CHEATHAM

A big hello to Paul Stokey, our new AM/Tradeshow Assistant. Your experience and expertise from Logisys will be invaluable to our Account Management team. It's wonderful to have a local like you with us, and we look forward to your contributions.

PAUL STOKEY

Jermey Burrows, welcome to the Edulog Account Management team! Your background in customer service and technical support will be a great asset to us. With your passion for sports and active lifestyle, we know you'll bring energy and enthusiasm to the team. And hey, Go 49rs!

JERMEY BURROWS

Gabriel Headley, congratulations on graduating from the University of Montana! We're excited to have you join us for a summer internship with the Athena Service Provider department. Your fresh perspective and eagerness to learn will make a valuable addition to our team. Welcome to Edulog, Gabe!

GABRIEL HEADLEY

STAFF UPDATES
CONTINUED

THE EDULOGGER
QUARTER TWO
2024

ECRISELIA FLORES

Please give a warm welcome to Ecriselia Flores (Ecy). Ecy is the second intern to join the team from the University of Montana. We are excited to have her join the Athena Service Provider Group under the direction of Tyler Simonich.

To all our new team members, we're thrilled to have you on board and look forward to achieving great things together at Edulog.

In addition to welcoming the new hires we would like to extend a heartfelt farewell to Lexie Duvall.

After decades of dedicated service to the workforce, the time has come to bid farewell to a cherished colleague and friend. With her unwavering commitment and infectious enthusiasm, has left an indelible mark on Edulog and Logisys. As she prepares to embark on the next chapter of her life, it is with profound gratitude and heartfelt well-wishes that we reflect on her remarkable journey.

Lexie's tenure with Logisys and Edulog has been nothing short of astonishing. Her passion for her work, coupled with her tireless efforts, has played a pivotal role in shaping the success of our teams. Whether she was nurturing relationships with clients, mentoring new hires, or bringing joy to her colleagues, Lexie approached each task with diligence and grace, earning the admiration and respect of all who had the privilege of working alongside her.

Beyond her professional achievements, Lexie's vibrant spirit and zest for life have been a source of inspiration to us all. Her boundless curiosity and adventurous nature have led her to explore new horizons and embrace exciting challenges. Now, as she sets her sights on retirement, we have no doubt that Lexie will approach this new chapter with the same enthusiasm and determination that have defined her career.

In her well-deserved retirement, Lexie plans to indulge in her passion for fun projects and travel. From pursuing her hobbies to embarking on globe-trotting adventures, she eagerly anticipates the freedom and joy that retirement brings. As she bids farewell to the daily grind, we can only imagine the incredible experiences that await her on the road ahead.

As we celebrate Lexie's retirement, let us take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for her invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication. Her presence will be sorely missed, but her legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come. Here's to Lexie Duvall: a true trailblazer, a cherished colleague, and a dear friend. May your retirement be filled with laughter, love, and endless adventures.

CHANGING THE GAME FOR
SPED OPTIMIZATION
EDULOG

Multi-dimensional run/route optimization, customizable seats, and more come together to create a powerful SPED Route Management System.

- Accounts for vehicle type, need, and school bell time for arrival.
- Can handle both SPED-only and SPED/Gen Ed blended groups.
- Improved safety.

SCAN ME

Start your conversation with Edulog to learn how we can streamline your operations and optimize daily runs:
www.edulog.com

SQL TIPS AND TRICKS
WRITTEN BY BARAK NELSON

It's almost vacation time for many teachers and students, but for anyone involved in school transportation planning, it's the beginning of a very busy season. Time management becomes crucial. If you have data copies, rollovers, or downloads that need to occur on specific dates, talk with your Account Manager, and they will be able to create tickets beforehand that keep track of what needs to be done when, to hand off to the relevant department before they are due.

A task takes less time when it is done right the first time. Before your scheduled rollover, make careful notes about any changes that occurred during the past school year, or that will happen at the beginning of the next, such as new or closing schools, grades or programs being added or dropped from existing schools, or boundary changes. Make sure the Edulog employee helping with the rollover is aware of all these changes so the rollover can be adapted to your needs. If you want to download a data file with the students promoted to the next year, but normally you exclude special ed students from being updated, let us know whether you want them updated or not. If you want us to copy data into a data area, but it has a current map and boundaries that you wish to retain, we will do that if we are aware of it.

Another component to time management is letting utilities do your work for you. If you are unsure whether there is a utility to perform a particular repetitive task, please ask us. Need to rebuild from scratch?

There are utilities that deassign students, stops, or runs, and that delete students, stops, runs, or routes. Need to create extra trips for students being transported to another school during the middle of the day? Do you need to insert a bus yard checkpoint at the beginning and end of your routes? There are utilities for those too.

Please feel free to reach out to your Account Manager if you have any questions on getting you prepared for the new school year.
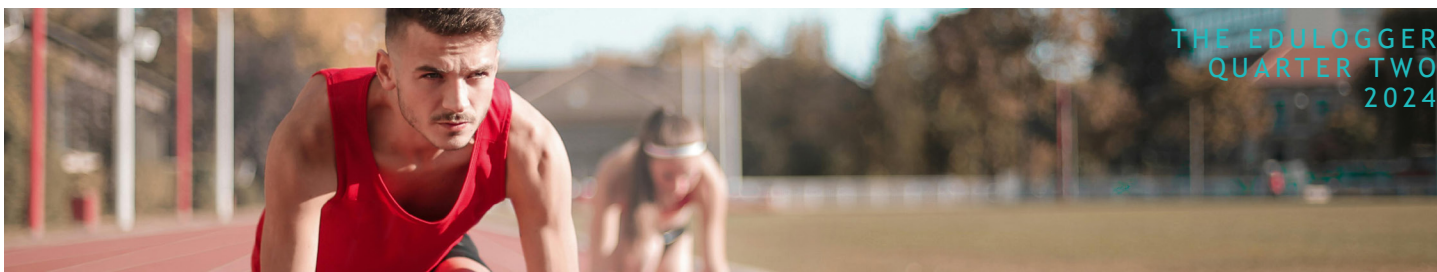
FUTURE-READY: ARE YOU PREPARED?
WRITTEN BY LAM NGUYEN-BULL

As people who work in education, heading into summer is a funny thing. While students are diving into summer fun, those of us who work to bring them back to school are already looking ahead to next fall (because by now, we've completed the work to set up summer programs!).

We're human…we like to use milestones like January 1 and school start to launch ambitious new projects. There's an irresistible compulsion to wait until times like these to try new things and because we ALL feel this way, these times are sometimes a great opportunity for us to get stakeholder engagement and buy-in for changes that would otherwise fall flat.

We always caution against assuming that school start is a good time to make major changes like using a new routing software. However, that doesn't mean that school start isn't a good time for OTHER types of changes that could be just as meaningful, and which may prepare your team and your community for the types of major operational changes that you might have in the works.

As a data-driven software-as-a-service provider, we love to talk about data and metrics. Frequently, we all jump to talking about performance metrics: how many students transported, on-time performance, and so on. But for school transportation departments, which now have a whole range of responsibilities.

In addition to transporting students (providing accurate real-time information, keeping data secure, etc.) paying attention to preparedness metrics can be just as important for sustained operational excellence than performance metrics. Preparedness metrics help ensure we're ready for whatever comes our way, which is crucial in today's ever-changing landscape.

Why Preparedness Metrics Matter:

Preparedness metrics show how well we're set up to handle both expected and unexpected challenges. While performance metrics tell us how we're doing based on past and current activities, preparedness metrics make sure we're ready to keep up and improve as things change.

To draw an analogy – take athletic performance. Athletic performance is, in most cases, objectively measurable. But whether an athlete performs well or poorly on any given day goes beyond how hard that athlete has worked in training. Athletes who pay attention only to their performance in training and in competition are setting themselves up for failure. It is true that athletes can churn out excellent performance even when sleep-deprived or in a caloric deficit. Or that well-recovered, well-fed athletes can have a bad day. But sustained good performance requires attention to the underlying preparedness – sleep, nutrition, recovery. Operational performance is no different.

Examples of Operational Preparedness Metrics

1. Training and Skill Development:

Staff Training Hours: Track how much time you spend training staff on new tech, change management, continuous improvement, data security, and emergency protocols.

Certification Levels: Measure the percentage of staff with certifications in areas like software-specific competence, cybersecurity and crisis management.

2. Resilience:

Backup and Recovery Plans: Check how robust and regularly tested your backup and recovery plans are.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): Evaluate how comprehensive and up to date your SOPs are for both routine and emergency situations. Be sure to check what is written down against what actual practices are and close the gaps.

Scenario Planning: Track your preparation and testing for different scenarios, like a lost student, bus malfunction, severe weather, etc. Run periodic incident response tabletop exercises and revise policies and procedures as necessary.

3. Communication and Coordination:

Communication Drills: Regularly practice communication with staff, parents, and emergency services.

Stakeholder Engagement: Track how often and how well you engage with stakeholders to keep communication clear and ongoing.

4. Change Management:

Change Adoption Rates: Track how quickly and effectively your staff adopt new technologies and processes.

Change Management Training: Measure how much and how well you train staff on change management skills.

We know that if we don't measure it, we don't, and can't, manage it. And measuring things takes WORK. So how do we figure out which metrics we should choose to measure?

The truth is you probably already have what you need to be able to pick what would be the most meaningful metrics for you to measure. But that doesn't mean a little help is unwelcome.

Our Advisory Services group can assist you with providing data or quick assessments that can help you identify the most pressing items. Our Data Overview Report can help identify data anomalies that point to process improvements, as well as provide a way to continuously monitor performance against set processes and objectives (since we're not advocating that you ignore your performance metrics). Or if you are interested in something more in-depth, give us a call to explore if an operations assessment if a good fit for you.

ROUTING
Optimization and Efficiency

BELL TIMES
Studies and Optimization

CONTRACTS
Auditing and Analysis

PLANNING
Demographics and Redistricting

OPERATIONS
Policies and Metrics

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT
WRITTEN BY CORI BURNS

DEAN KEITH (AKA VADER)

Edulog would like to recognize Dean Keith (aka Vader), a valued member of our Engineering team. Vader joined Edulog in 1997 in our Data Services department. He is a Montana native and University of Montana grad. In his free time, Vader enjoys Gaming and Geocaching. Vader is a DevOps Engineer, responsible for provisioning, deploying, and managing code and infrastructure across Edulog's suite of applications. See below for few more fun facts about our friend and co-worker Vader:

Favorite Color:
Black/purple

Dream Vacation:
There are many places I want to go but the biggest currently is Scotland.

Favorite Quote:
I only run when chased.

Favorite place to eat in Missoula:
Lolo Peak Brewery

Favorite Season and why:
Summer. I enjoy the warmer weather and being able to go outside and explore.

What are two things on your bucket list:
Visit Scotland. Visit the arch in St. Louis.

Do you have any pets, if so what type/name:
A cat named Dusty.

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be:
I would say that the ability to pick up any new skill instantly would be a useful skill to have.

If you had to delete all but 2 apps from your phone, which 2 would you keep:
Probably Discord to keep in touch with people, and not sure about the other one.

How would you describe your job at Edulog and its responsibilities to someone unfamiliar with Edulog/our products:
I support those who support our clients by helping to keep the servers running and the software working.

Favorite Edulog Product or favorite part of working here:
I like my co-workers.

Edulog advice (to clients or co-workers):
Be patient.

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?
WRITTEN BY JASMINE BROWN

In the dynamic realm of software usage, encountering glitches, uncertainties, or the need for account assistance is practically inevitable. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a novice navigating the digital landscape, having the right support network can significantly impact your efficiency, productivity, and overall success. Today, we delve into the importance of knowing who to contact for support, specifically within the scope of Edulog's services.

Why Reliable Support Matters:

Picture this scenario: You're in the midst of a critical project, and suddenly, you encounter a perplexing software issue. Your productivity screeches to a halt as you grapple with troubleshooting strategies. This is where the importance of having access to reliable software support and services becomes glaringly evident. Whether it's technical assistance for software implementation, troubleshooting bugs, or optimizing software performance, knowing exactly who to contact can swiftly alleviate your predicament and propel your project forward.

Edulog Support:

Edulog recognizes the challenges users face with software. From forgetting passwords to recovering from cyber-attacks, these issues can disrupt operations and cause stress. Knowing how to reach Edulog's support team is crucial. You can contact them via email at support@edulog.com or by calling 800-288-2141 x1. This direct access ensures that help is available when you need it most, minimizing downtime and frustration.

User Groups:

Community forums and user groups are invaluable resources for software users seeking assistance and camaraderie. By engaging with Edulog's user groups, you gain access to a wealth of collective knowledge, user-generated solutions, and peer-to-peer support. Active participation fosters collaboration, networking, and the exchange of best practices, enhancing your proficiency with the software. To enroll in Edulog's User Groups, reach out to your Account Manager.

Account Management:

Edulog's Account Management team is your essential customer service support line. They handle billing, account information, customer check-ins, and serve as liaisons between the company and its clients. If you need support related to account management, you can contact any of the following team members directly:
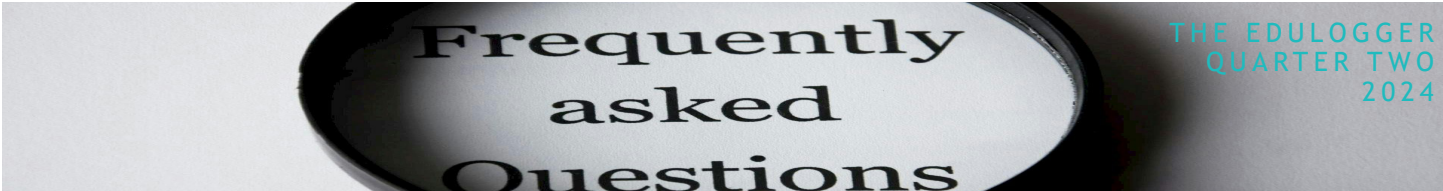
Arika Steele; Manager, Client Engagement & Sales Operations: asteele@edulog.com

Jasmine Brown; Account Manager II: jbrown@edulog.com

Jeremy Burrows; Account Manager: jburrows@edulog.com

Sarah Hutcherson; Account Manager: shutcherson@edulog.com

Paul Stokey; Account Manager/Tradeshow Assistant: pstokey@edulog.com

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT: FAQ'S
WRITTEN BY JERMEY BURROWS

As summer begins, and planning for the upcoming school year starts, here are some commonly asked questions and topics with answers and resources.

Map Update Requests:

To request a map update, please reach out to your Account Manager. They will first check if your contract includes the 15% annual map update. If it does not, don't worry! We have options available to get your map updated.

To expedite the process, make sure you have the necessary information ready. This includes a center line shapefile of the map section. If you have a GIS department, they can provide this file. If not, you can obtain it from your county GIS department. You will also want to provide Google screen shots of the areas you would like updated.

Once you have the required files, your Account Manager will send them to Support to initiate the map update process. We're here to ensure your maps are accurate and up-to-date, so don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need assistance.

Server Migrations:

Before we can assist with a server migration, the district will need to build the server or request to become hosted on an Edulog server, by purchasing a license. Edulog can provide server specifications to guide you. Once the server is built, we will submit a ticket to Support to move the software to the new server. There is a cost for a migration, and it depends on several factors. Please contact your Account Manager for exact costs. A software upgrade is included, at no cost to your district, as part of the migration.

School Startup:

During the school startup period, it's crucial to provide specific dates and details about your data sets to ensure smooth operations. Here are some important points to consider:

1. **Summer School Planning:** Please clarify whether you are planning to conduct summer school and if routing will be required for it. This information will help us prepare and ensure that all necessary routing data sets are updated accordingly.

2. **Special Education (SPED) Updates:** If there are any changes or updates needed for special education routing data sets, please inform us promptly. It's essential to ensure that SPED routing is accurate and up-to-date for the new school year.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT: FAQ'S
CONTINUED

3. **First Day of School:** Provide the exact date for the first day of school. This information is crucial for scheduling and planning routes effectively.

4. **Summer School Start Date:** Inform us about the start date of your summer school sessions. Having this information will allow us to adjust routing schedules accordingly.

5. **Rollover Schedule:** If you have a rollover schedule for transitioning between academic years or terms, please share it with us. Understanding your rollover schedule helps us coordinate updates and ensure seamless transitions.

6. **Athena Sandbox Contact:** If you have an Athena Sandbox environment for testing and development purposes, make sure you know who to contact for support or assistance.

7. **Account Manager Support:** Remember that your Account Manager is here to assist you throughout the process. Feel free to reach out to them for any questions, concerns, or assistance you may need during the school startup period.

By providing clear and specific details about your data sets, schedules, and requirements, we can work together to ensure a successful start to the new school year. Don't hesitate to communicate any updates or changes as they arise, and we'll be here to support you every step of the way.

Parent Portal:

This app allows parents to receive real-time updates about their child's bus location and current status, reducing calls and emails to the district for updates. We also have software that tracks students through our Student Ridership program. (Please inquire about the pricing of the Parent Portal and Student Ridership and if you would like to have a demo.)
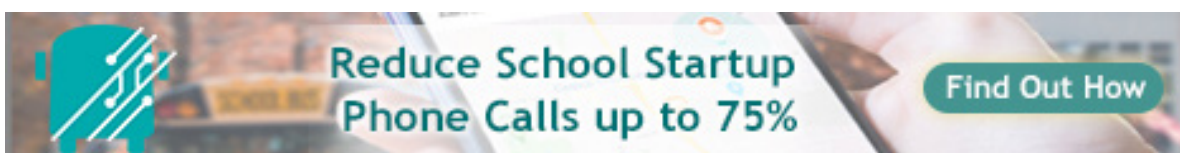
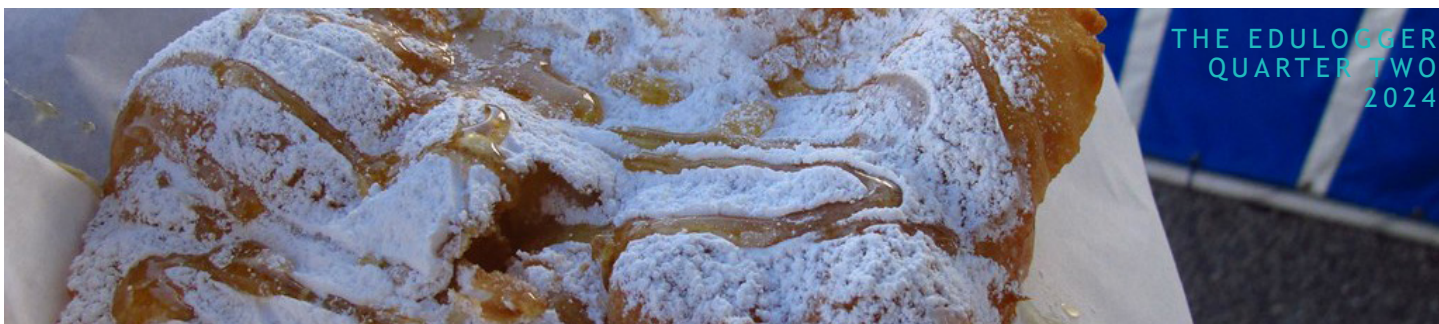For any questions or assistance with the above services, contact information, and available resources:

Email: support@edulog.com
Email: tabletsupport@edulog.com
Your Project Manager
Your Account Manager

RECIPE:FRIED BREADS
WRITTEN BY SARAH HUTCHERSON

Summer time means it's time for some fried breads! The following 3 recipes are a few different options for your summer get-togethers.

Fry Bread:

According to many historians, the Southwestern American Indigenous people, developed Fry Bread during the mid-to-late-nineteenth century. Now we present you with the recipe to make your own Fry Bread.
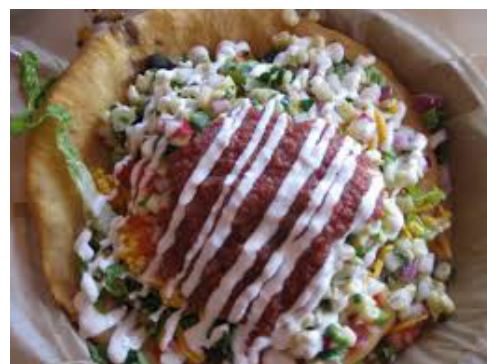
Ingredients:

2 C All-purpose flour
1 Tbsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
¾ C Water
(You will need additional oil for frying)

Directions:

1. In a medium bowl add the all-purpose flour, baking powder and salt.
2. Add water a little at a time until a ball forms. Your should mix until it does not stick to your hands, or about 5minutes. (Note: you may not use all the water)
3. Tear off plum-sized piece of dough & flatten into half-inch disks.
4. Fry pieces of dough in hot oil until brown on both sides; about 3minutes. Soak up the excess oil by placing the breads on paper towels or napkins.

Options: Serve with butter, cinnamon/sugar, powdered sugar, honey, jams, or as a taco like this one!

Sopapilla:

Sopapillas are thought to have originated in Albuquerque, New Mexico, more than 200 years ago.

Ingredients:

2 C All-purpose flour
1 Tbsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
¾ C Water
(You will need additional oil for frying)

Directions:

1. Mix Ingredients together in a bowl until smooth.
2. Add a splash of water, then cover and let stand for 20 minutes.
3. Grab a pan and pour in a fry-oil of your choice. Heat to 375°.
4. Roll out the dough into a ⅛ to ¼ inch thickness. Then cut dough into 3 inch squares.
5. Fry the dough squares in oil until they are golden on both sides.
6. Soak up the excess oil by placing the breads on paper towels or napkins.

Options: Serve with butter, dusted with cinnamon/sugar or powdered sugar, with honey!
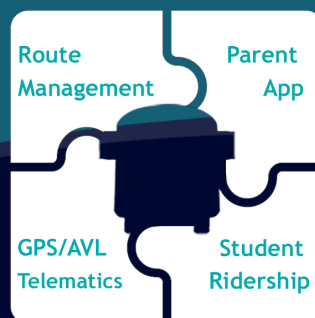
Naan:

Early recorded history of naan first appeared in the notes of Indo-Persian poet Amir Kushrau in 1300 AD. Now naan is found around the world.

Ingredients: (Makes 3 naan)

2 C Unbleached white bread flour
½ tsp salt
½ oz. fresh yeast
4 Tbsp lukewarm milk
1 Tbsp plain yogurt
1 egg
2-3 Tbsp melted ghee or butter, for brushing
(You will need additional oil for dough)

Directions:

1. Sift flour and salt into a large bowl.
2. In a separate, small bowl, cream the yeast with the milk; set aside for 15 minutes
3. Add the yeast mix, yogurt and egg to the flour and mix into a soft dough.
4. Kneed the dough on a lightly floured surface for about ten minutes until smooth and elastic.
5. Place into a lightly oiled bowl and cover with a lightly oiled plastic wrap. Let rise in a warm place for about 45 minutes or until doubled in mass.
6. Preheat oven to 450º; place a baking sheet (you may need more than one) in the warmed oven for about 10 minutes to heat evenly.
7. While the pan(s) warm, dump the dough onto a lightly floured surface & punch it down. Divide into 3 equal pieces & shape into balls. Cover 2 of the doughballs in oiled plastic wrap.
8. Roll out the dough into a "tear-drop" shape. The whole bread will be about ten inches long, five inches wide, and ¼ inch thick. Repeat for each doughball.
9. Place the rolled-out pieces on the warm baking sheet(s) and bake for 3-4 minutes or until the bread is puffed up.
10. Remove the bread from the oven and turn the broiler on high. Place the naan in the broiler for a few seconds until light brown. Brush with ghee or butter. Wrap in a towel to keep warm until you are ready to serve.

Options:
Spicy Naan: 1tsp ground coriander & cumin to the sifted flour. If you need an extra kick add ½-1tsp Chile powder.

Garlic Naan: 1tsp garlic powder (NOT garlic SALT), & 1 tsp Onion powder to the sifted flour.

Poppy seed: Before baking, brush w/butter & dust w/poppy seeds & press into the dough so they stick.

Pooris:

Pooris originates from an Indian subcontinent particularly in present-day Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Ingredients: (Makes 12)

1 C Unbleached all-purpose flour
1 C whole-wheat flour
½ tsp salt
½ C water
2 Tbsp vegetable oil (You will need additional oil for frying)
½ tsp chile powder (optional)

Directions:

1. Sift both flours, salt, and chile powder in a large bowl.
2. Add the oil and enough water to mix into a dough. The mixture shouldn't stick to the bowl, but shouldn't be crumbly.
3. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface & knead for about 8-10 minutes until smooth. Then place into a lightly oiled bowl, cover with a lightly-oiled plastic wrap, and let rest for 30 minutes.
4. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface and divide into 12 equal parts. Keep all sections covered, rolling them out one at a time into 5-inch rounds. Cover each layer with plastic wrap as they are rolled out to maintain moisture.
5. In a deep-frying pan, heat an inch of oil to 350°. Using a spatula, lift and slide the pooris pieces into the oil. If it sinks, don't panic. Once it starts floating, press it back into the oil gently with the spatula until it puffs up. Then flip to the other side and fry for approximately twenty seconds.
6. Remove the pooris from the oil and soak up the excess oil by placing the breads on paper towels or napkins. Place your oven onto a warm setting or low heat, and store the breads in there while you finish frying each piece. Serve warm.

Options:
2oz frozen/thawed chopped spinach, drain it well & add it to the dough with a little grated ginger root & ½ tsp ground cumin.
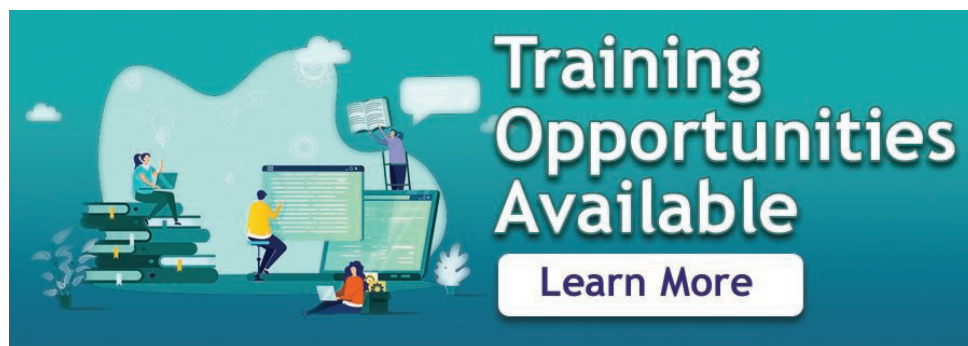
Sudoku

7	6	1			9	2		3
	8		2			9		
	3		6			4		
3	4	8				7		
		6	4			8		5
			3		8			1
1	2	3		8	6			4
	5		7				9	8
	9	7			4	1	6	

Answers to this quarter's sudoku puzzle are on the last page.

THE EDULOGGER
A newsletter for clients

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Sudoku Answers

7	6	1	8	4	9	2	5	3
4	8	5	2	7	3	9	1	6
9	3	2	6	5	1	4	8	7
3	4	8	1	6	5	7	2	9
2	1	6	4	9	7	8	3	5
5	7	9	3	2	8	6	4	1
1	2	3	9	8	6	5	7	4
6	5	4	7	1	2	3	9	8
8	9	7	5	3	4	1	6	2