

Dr. Faye Burrowes

An Educator With a Difference!

Behind her welcoming smile and friendliness lie a steely determination to reach the top. It took her a while but her hard work paid off and this summer Faye Burrowes was awarded her doctorate degree in education. It was a proud moment for this educator from Guyana who has now made her home in New York. Dr. Faye Burrowes has made us all proud. Her story is uplifting and inspirational.

Faye was born in Riverstown Village in the Essequibo Coast of Guyana. Her mom was Mary Burrowes and her dad was George Burrowes. Faye is the tenth of eleven children and the last girl in the family. She attended Riverstown Primary School and then Normal Educational Institute which was a private High School in Queenstown on the Essequibo Coast. Faye loved Math and English and her teachers Arnold Drakes and Miss Innis were very supportive.

Faye passed her O'Levels and she said that there was no motivation to move ahead as her relatives were supporting her. She had moved to Georgetown. But this changed when she met a friend Eileen Garroway. One day as she was leaving the cinema Faye bumped into Eileen. After the formalities Eileen wanted to know what Faye was doing. Eileen felt that Faye would make a good teacher and encouraged her to apply to the Ministry of Education. Faye took her advice and was appointed as a teacher in Georgetown at Salem Primary School in Durban Street.

She was next placed at St. Sidwell's Primary School and in time she was given her own class. She taught there from 1978 to 1980 after which she went to Teacher's Training College at Turkeyen. Faye was impressed with Ms. Anthony whom she described as a wonderful educator. She was also lucky to meet with Francesca Sumner whose father was from St. Lucia. Little did she know that Francesca would play in

influential role in her life. After her training was over Faye returned to St. Sidwell's in 1982 and taught there until 1987.

In 1988 Francesca met with Faye and encouraged her to move to St. Lucia to teach. It was a bold step to take as Faye

I ended up teaching for thirteen years at Anse-la-Raye. While I was teaching I did my undergraduate degree through the University of the West Indies." How did she find teaching in St. Lucia? Faye says that it was great and she was able to

it. She traveled to Barbados for the interview.

Faye returned to St. Lucia and was contacted by the New York officials. They offered her a position in New York which she accepted. She was assigned to Middle School 158 in the Bronx and the students were in the sixth grade, comprising both general and special education students. The class was challenging and she found herself having to devise new strategies on a daily basis to get the attention of the students. Faye duly completed her Master's Degree in Education and then

thesis and was able to satisfy the requirements for her EdD degree. She graduated in July 2015 with her doctorate in education specializing in school administration. Her graduation was a happy occasion.

Faye had come a long way and this was just rewards for her efforts. But she is an ambitious person and the stars are hers to reach. She plans to go into administration and her vision is to get as far as she can be in education.

Faye is aware of the fact that there were a number of persons in her corner. She is grateful to all of them especially her parents Mary and George Burrowes who took an interest in her education. Then there is sister Genevieve Rodney who gave Faye great advice and who was kind and, "took care of me and loved me a whole lot." Her eldest brother Wilfred Burrowes was always around to give good guidance and advice and Faye is grateful. She is also thankful to Principal Robert Wajnrowski of PS9 for his support and help. "Mr. Wajnrowski was terrific and I thank him immensely," says Faye.

There is no question that Dr. Faye Burrowes is an influential educator. She would like to see the students focus on their studies and to give their best.

One of the highlights of her career occurred in 2012 when she returned to St. Lucia. It was an emotional reunion as her former students at Anse-la-Raye showered her with praises and informed her how well they did in their studies. Faye likes cricket and her favorite players are Viv Richards, Colin Croft and Curtley Ambrose.

We salute Dr. Faye Burrowes as a great educator. She is on the path to reach the highest position in education and we wish her all the best in the future.



A proud moment as Dr. Faye Burrowes is awarded her doctorate degree. Dr. Burrowes has taught in Guyana, St. Lucia and the United States. She currently teaches in New York City.

was settled at St. Sidwell's but after thinking it over she went to St. Lucia. She applied to several schools but nothing happened and her visa was running out. Faye was about to give up and return to Guyana when a school called her for an interview. She was offered a job and she began teaching in October 1988. Faye was placed at Anse-la-Raye Primary School on the West Coast of St. Lucia.

Faye says, "I worked hard and did my job. As it turned out

impact positively many lives. She found the education system to be of a high standard. Faye also met a number of Guyanese educators in St. Lucia. She became a citizen of St. Lucia in the process and thought that she was going to make the island her home when her life took another turn.

In 2001, the New York City Board of Education had a recruitment drive for teachers from the Caribbean. It took place in Barbados and a friend Pearlne Gilkes told Faye about

she completed 30 credits above her Master's in school administration. This led to a second Master's degree in school supervision. Faye taught at MS 158 for six years and then she moved to PS9 in Maspeth, in Queens. This is a school for special education students and it was here that the idea came to Faye to begin studies for her doctoral degree.

Faye studied with North Central University in Arizona and after seven years she completed her course work and