



## Zoltán Szvetits (1929-2014)



**“Love is the greatest force in the world...”**

### **Legendary teacher, Zoltán Szvetits passed away**

The legendary mathematics teacher of Secondary School Fazekas in Debrecen, Zoltán Szvetits passed away on 5th November 2014, at the age of 84. Beginning in 1954 he had been teaching here almost forty years. His pupils and the society of teachers have lost an outstanding teacher character. This secondary school has been well known for decades about its special mathematics class with 10 math lessons a week. This special class was designed and established by Zoltán Szvetits.

He has made mathematics attractive for talented pupils. This was the purpose he lived for. His example was taken and can be taken until today by generations of teachers. He made mathematics the meaning of his pupils' life, every thought of his pupils was around mathematics, the other lessons were used for having a rest between two math lessons. He achieved that mathematics became everyone's favourite.

He had a close contact with all his pupils who are still telling typical stories about him even after decades. Those who even had him as a form-master had an exceptional luck. He prepared hundreds of pupils for a humanistic life. As he said: “Love is the greatest force...”. Under this he meant an enthusiastic love of mathematics, as well as respecting, supporting and loving each other. He taught us how to overcome the greatest

problems with patience and perseverance, no matter if it is a mathematical problem or a turning point of our personal life. He was a puritan man, his thought, ideas and his soul made him rich. He lived for teaching, the light of understanding and agreement in his pupils' eyes made him happy. Everybody acknowledged and appreciated his intellectual greatness. Everybody stopped speaking as he entered the classroom. Should somebody had made something wrong, he did not scold him but stopped for a moment and thought it over what inspiring and instructive to tell.

In 1975 he was awarded the Manó Beke Memorial Prize by János Bolyai Mathematical Society. On the 125th anniversary of establishing the school, the association of the Secondary School Fazekas awarded him its Golden Ring. He could have been much more appreciated in his life and death, as well. We got much more from him, than we could give him. He left an enormous and irreplaceable void behind. Unforgettable memories stay alive in his pupils.

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