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"The world cup is more than just a sports game to me. It is something that reminds me of my culture and unites my family."
-Gabriela Gómez '24



Lionel Messi ARG
DOB: 1987 Age: 35
Club: Paris Saint Germain F.C.
Position: Forward
Goals: 11
Assist: 8

Cristiano Ronaldo PRT
Age: 38 DOB: 1985
Club: Al-Nassr F.C.
Position: Forward
Goals: 8
Assist: 2



"For one month the human family is united in sport. The world is at their feet."
-John Ricard



Neymar da Silva Santos Júnior CBF
DOB: 1992 Age: 31
Club: Barcelona
Position: Forward
Goals: 7
Assists: 3



"It was the beginning of Mr. Powers' AP Calculus AB period-six class when it was Messi's turn to shoot his penalty kick. A hush fell over the otherwise loud class as we anticipated the shot. Once the ball zoomed to the top left corner of the net, the class exploded in a roar of cheers: Argentina advances!"
-Ethan Grover '23

The La'eeb, the mascot for the 2022 World Cup received its name from the arabic word for "skilled player." During the half time show, the La'eeb waved in the air to symbolize a sense of community



"I could hear everyone in the union screaming 'MESSI SCORED!' At home my family and I are big soccer fans so we were so excited when we saw that Messi scored."
-Aarav Shah '26



LIVE FROM QATAR

"The city of Doha is filled with modern architecture and a variety of food. On the outskirts was the desert filled with activities such as camel riding and sand dunning. Qatar is filled with Islamic culture and a portion of the country was built just for this event, including a new metro station.

In a World Cup of Firsts Argentina Won

words by Dylan Bryan & Isabella Neville, design by Mia Farber & Elani Kodner, photo art by Elani Kodner

Every four years since 1930, national soccer teams from all over the world compete for the title of the FIFA World Cup. The 22nd International Association Football Federation (FIFA) World Cup was held in eight different stadiums in Qatar, and took place from November 20 through December 18. This World Cup was the first one to be held in an Arabic country and the second World Cup to be held in Asia.

"I've been watching the World Cup since I was little. The tradition of watching it every four years with friends and family has become an integral part of my life," Manuela De Armas-Kucich '24 said.

Controversy
The 2022 edition of this event was surrounded by controversy due to Qatar's stance on same-sex marriage and the reported working conditions of migrant workers building the stadiums.

"I thought it was inhumane and shocking to realize that such a big event, an event that people are looking forward to is actually being funded by methods that are not keeping up with the times," Arsenii Aleshin '26 said.

In Qatar, same-sex relationships are deemed illegal and punishable by seven years in prison and the World Cup officials banned fans from bringing pride flags into the stadiums or wearing any clothing that would support a similar message. In addition, workers from different countries in Asia traveled to Qatar due to the job opportunities that came with preparing for the World Cup. However, various investigations had shown that many workers died during the building of the eight stadiums in Qatar. This news put a damper on the excitement and anticipation of millions of people around the world for whom soccer is a unifying force.

Soccer in Winter

Another interesting aspect of this World Cup was that, due to the extreme heat in Qatar, the games took place in winter instead of summer. Consequently, students had the opportunity to watch many matches in the Student Union during free periods and even in the five-minute transition period between classes.

"It was refreshing to watch World Cup games. [This championship] always keeps me on my toes because you never really can predict the outcome of any game," Avanti Ambashat '24 said.

Dances

One of the most viral moments from the 2022 World Cup was Brazil's team dances and celebrations. After they scored a goal, players from Brazil's national team would line up and do a synchronized dance. The dances became popular on TikTok with many people across the world learning and joining in.

"Social media allowed us to see a different side to the World Cup," Maya Heyman '24 said. "Learning the dances that the players did with my friends was so fun."

The final match of the World Cup was between France and Argentina. It was a long game that went to extra time and penalties. Argentina took the win 7 goals to 5. This was the first time the Argentinian National team won the cup since 1986 in Mexico.

"I was so nervous when we went to penalties. We had the best team and I knew we had to win but I was still very nervous," Santiago Carregal Yege '26 said. "As soon as the last goal went in, my family and I started jumping up and down and hugging each other in celebration. Afterwards, I loved going down to Miami to join the big party on the streets."

LIVE FROM QATAR

Reports from Natalia Parra '26

There were people from all over the world, everyone joined to watch soccer. Every stadium was unique in its own way, one was even made out of shipping containers. I took photos of everything I could and reported back to my friends at school.

