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ROBES ON FOR MINI MAYOR

ANDREW JEFFERSON

A LOVE of food helped Loreto Mandeville Hall student Claire McDaniel to be named this year's Junior Lord Mayor.

The 11-year-old from Glen Iris beat stiff competition from five other girls to land the plum role at this weekend's 180th Melbourne Day Birthday.

US-born Claire will don the mini-mayoral robes on Sunday by joining Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley in raising the City of Melbourne flag at Enterprize Park.

When asked to nominate an issue she would like to change, Claire said she would like to better educate children on cyber safety.

"We're growing up in an age where technology will soon become very popular and knowing some cyber safety skills would be very helpful in the future," she said.

Claire said Melbourne's cultural diversity and food were its greatest assets.

"We have many varieties of food in Melbourne, plus beautiful fusions of food, that just make something very wonderful," she said.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said all six candidates this year were excellent, but Claire stood out as the winner.



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Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle welcomes Junior Lord Mayor Claire McDaniel, of Glen Iris, to the Council Chambers.
Picture: DAVID CAIRD